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# Electronic Supplementary Information

## Mild and Efficient Capture and Functionalisation of CO<sub>2</sub> using Silver(I) Oxide and Application to <sup>13</sup>C-labelled Dialkyl Carbonates

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## Experimental

### General Experimental

Chemicals, solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. PE refers to petroleum ether, bp 40-60 °C. Anhydrous solvents were used where indicated. Glassware for dry reactions was dried either by heating in an oven at 120 °C for at least 1 h, or heating with a hot air gun for 5 min. The glassware was then allowed to cool under a stream of N<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2(g)</sub> was generated by allowing commercially available dry ice (CO<sub>2(s)</sub>) to sublime at room temperature in a stoppered flask fitted with an empty balloon. The balloon would gradually fill with CO<sub>2</sub> gas which was used directly in the CO<sub>2</sub> reactions. In the <sup>13</sup>C incorporation experiments, CO<sub>2(g)</sub> was generated by the addition of 3M HCl<sub>(aq)</sub> to NaHCO<sub>3(s)</sub>. <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2(g)</sub> was generated from NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (isotopic enrichment 99% <sup>13</sup>C – see Certificate of Analysis pS71), obtained from CK Gas Products Ltd.

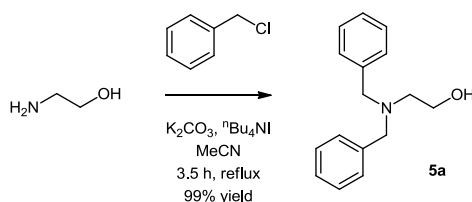
TLCs were carried out on Merck Aluminium backed TLC plates Silica Gel 60 F254 and viewed using UV light of wavelength 254 nm and then stained with potassium permanganate. Merck Silica Gel (0.040-0.063 mm) was used for column chromatography. Compounds were loaded as an oil, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution or dry loaded by adsorption onto silica.

Melting points were obtained using a Reichert-Jung heated-stage microscope. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum RXI FT-IR system and reported as cm<sup>-1</sup>.

NMR spectra were obtained on Varian Mercury VX (400 MHz) or Bruker Avance III (500 or 400 MHz) spectrometers. The chemical shifts are recorded in parts per million (ppm) with reference to tetramethylsilane. The coupling constants *J* are quoted to the nearest 0.5 Hz and are not corrected.

Mass spectra and high resolution mass spectra were obtained on a micrOTOF<sup>TM</sup> from Bruker Daltonics (Bremen, Germany) coupled with an electrospray source (ESI-TOF) using an autosampler in an Agilent 1100 LC system. Data was processed using external calibration with the Bruker Daltonics software, DataAnalysis<sup>TM</sup> as part of the overall hardware control software, Compass 1.1<sup>TM</sup>.

### ***N,N*-Dibenzyl-2-aminoethanol (**5a**)**



$n\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (1.11 g, 3 mmol, 30 mol%) was added to a rapidly stirred suspension of ethanolamine (604  $\mu\text{L}$ , 10 mmol), benzyl chloride (2.5 mL, 22 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (4.15 g, 30 mmol, 3 equiv.) in MeCN (30 mL) open to the air. The mixture was heated at reflux for 3.5 h, cooled to room temperature and the solvent removed under reduced pressure.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (30 mL) was added to the residue and the product extracted with EtOAc ( $4 \times 30$  mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica, PE:EtOAc gradient from 100:0 to 20:80] to afford the alcohol **5a** (2.4 g, 99% yield) as a white solid.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 80:20] 0.30;

**Mp** 42–44 °C (from PE/EtOAc); Lit.<sup>1</sup> 38 °C (from pentane/EtOAc);

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 3321 (OH) and 1600 (C=C);

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.35–7.26 (10 H, m, Ph), 3.64 (4 H, s,  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{N}$ ), 3.59 (2 H, t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 2.68 (2 H, t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ) and 2.65–2.50 (1 H, m, OH);

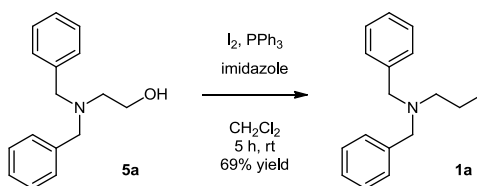
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 138.7 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 127.2 (Ph), 58.5 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 58.2 ( $\text{PhCH}_2\text{N}$ ) and 54.8 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ );

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 264 (1%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ ) and 242 (100%,  $\text{MH}^+$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 242.1546 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ) and 264.1368 ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ).  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{MH}^+$ ) requires 242.1545 and  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}$  ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ) requires 264.1364.

Consistent with the spectroscopic data previously reported.<sup>1, 2</sup>

### *N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane (**1a**)



Iodine (858 mg, 3.38 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added to a rapidly stirred solution of the alcohol **5a** (743 mg, 3.08 mmol),  $PPh_3$  (887 mg, 3.38 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and imidazole (230 mg, 3.38 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) under a  $N_2$  atmosphere. After 5 h of stirring at room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. EtOAc (30 mL) and saturated aqueous  $NaHCO_3$  solution (40 mL) were added, the layers separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 30$  mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica, PE:EtOAc gradient from 100:0 to 30:70] to afford the alkyl iodide **1a** (744 mg, 69% yield) as a clear brown oil.

$R_f$  [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.80.

**IR**  $\nu_{max}$  (liquid film) 2925 (CH) and 1602 (C=C);

**$^1H$  NMR**  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz;  $CDCl_3$ ) 7.38 (4 H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Ph), 7.34-7.28 (4 H, m, Ph), 7.27-7.21 (2 H, m, Ph), 3.63 (4 H, s,  $PhCH_2N$ ), 3.16 (2 H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $NCH_2CH_2I$ ) and 2.83 (2 H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $NCH_2CH_2I$ );

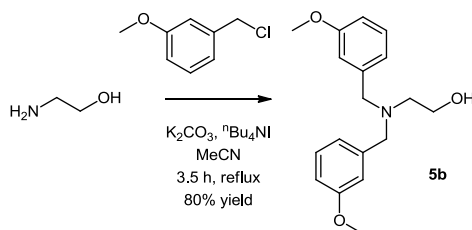
**$^{13}C$  NMR**  $\delta_C$  (100 MHz;  $CDCl_3$ ) 139.0 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 127.1 (Ph), 58.1 ( $PhCH_2N$ ), 56.1 ( $NCH_2CH_2I$ ) and 4.0 ( $NCH_2CH_2I$ );

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 352 (11%,  $MH^+$ ) and 224 (100%,  $M^+ - I$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 352.0561 ( $MH^+$ ).  $C_{16}H_{19}IN$  ( $MH^+$ ) requires 352.0562.

Consistent with the spectroscopic data previously reported.<sup>2</sup>

### ***N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)-2-aminoethanol (**5b**)**



<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (554 mg, 1.5 mmol, 30 mol%) was added to a rapidly stirred suspension of ethanolamine (302 μL, 5 mmol), 3-methoxybenzyl chloride (1.6 mL, 11 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.07 g, 15 mmol, 3 equiv.) in MeCN (30 mL) open to the air. The mixture was heated at reflux for 3.5 h, cooled to room temperature and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) was added to the residue and the product extracted with EtOAc (4 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica, PE:EtOAc gradient from 100:0 to 20:80] to afford the alcohol **5b** (1.2 g, 80% yield) as a colourless oil.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 50:50] 0.60;

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 3451 (OH), 2943 (C-H), 1600 (C=C) and 1049 (C-O);

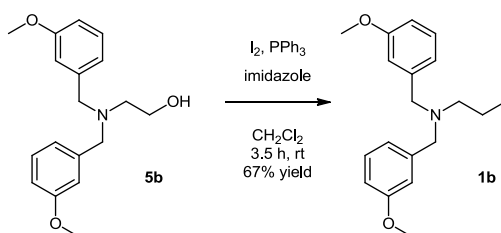
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.24 (2 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar), 6.91 (2 H, br.d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Ar), 6.87 (2 H, t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, Ar), 6.79 (2 H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 and 1.0 Hz, Ar), 3.80 (6 H, s, ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (4 H, s, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.59 (2 H, t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH) and 2.68 (2 H, t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.7 (Ar), 140.4 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 121.2 (Ar), 114.6 (Ar), 112.4 (Ar), 58.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 58.2 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 55.1 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>) and 54.9 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH);

**MS** *m/z* (+ESI) 324 (13%, MNa<sup>+</sup>) and 302 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>);

**HRMS** *m/z* (+ESI) Found 324.1554 (MNa<sup>+</sup>) and 302.1748 (MH<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> (MNa<sup>+</sup>) requires 324.1576 and C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (MH<sup>+</sup>) requires 302.1756.

### *N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)amino-2-iodoethane (**1b**)



Iodine (558 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added to a rapidly stirred solution of the alcohol **5b** (602 mg, 2 mmol),  $PPh_3$  (577 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and imidazole (150 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (8 mL) open to the air. After 3.5 h of stirring at room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. EtOAc (30 mL) and saturated aqueous  $NaHCO_3$  solution (40 mL) were added, the layers separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 30$  mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica, PE:EtOAc gradient from 100:0 to 30:70] to afford the alkyl iodide **1b** (550 mg, 67% yield) as a clear brown oil.

$R_f$  [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.80;

**IR**  $\nu_{max}$  (liquid film) 2939 (C-H), 1600 (C=C) and 1050 (C-O);

**$^1H$  NMR**  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz;  $CDCl_3$ ) 7.22 (2 H, t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, Ar), 7.01 (2 H, br.s, Ar), 6.95 (2 H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Ar), 6.79 (2 H, dd,  $J = 8.0$  and 2.5 Hz, Ar), 3.82 (6 H, s,  $ArOCH_3$ ), 3.61 (4 H, s,  $ArCH_2N$ ), 3.20 (2 H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $NCH_2CH_2I$ ) and 2.83 (2 H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $NCH_2CH_2I$ );

**$^{13}C$  NMR**  $\delta_C$  (100 MHz;  $CDCl_3$ ) 159.6 (Ar), 140.7 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 121.0 (Ar), 114.2 (Ar), 112.6 (Ar), 58.0 ( $ArCH_2N$ ), 55.9 ( $NCH_2CH_2I$ ), 55.2 ( $ArOCH_3$ ) and 4.30 ( $NCH_2CH_2I$ );

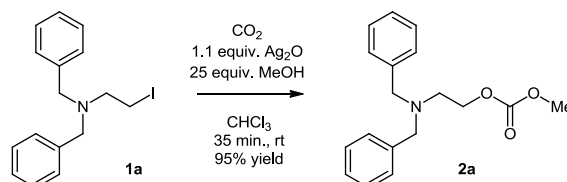
**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 316 (100%,  $M^+ - I + MeOH$ ; **3b** +  $H^+$ ), 284 (58%,  $M^+ - I$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 284.1646 ( $M^+ - I$ ).  $C_{18}H_{22}NO_2$  ( $M^+ - I$ ) requires 284.1651.

**CO<sub>2</sub> capture and functionalisation**  
**Table 1**

**Entry 1, Table 1**

**2-*N,N*-Dibenzylaminoethyl methyl carbonate (2a)**



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (50 mg, 0.14 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) and CO<sub>2</sub> (1 balloon) was bubbled through. MeOH (0.14 mL, 3.5 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added, followed by Ag<sub>2</sub>O (37 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> at room temperature for 35 mins. The reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool and silica plug and washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (40 mg, 95% yield) as a colourless oil.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 80:20] 0.51;

**IR**  $\nu_{\max}$  (liquid film) 2955 (CH), 1747 (C=O) and 1602 (C=C);

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.36 (4 H, d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 7.30 (4 H, t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 7.23 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 4.20 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.75 (3 H, s, OCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.65 (4 H, s, PhCH<sub>2</sub>N) and 2.76 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 155.7 (C=O), 139.2 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.0 (Ph), 66.0 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 58.7 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>N), 54.7 (OCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) and 51.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

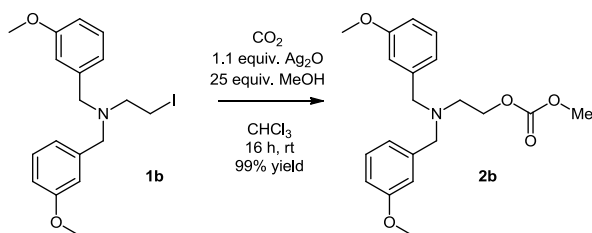
**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 322 (2%, MNa<sup>+</sup>) and 300 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>);

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 322.1419 (MNa<sup>+</sup>) and 300.1597 (MH<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> (MNa<sup>+</sup>) requires 322.1419 and C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (MH<sup>+</sup>) requires 300.1600.



## Entry 2, Table 1

### 2-*N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)aminoethyl methyl carbonate (**2b**)



*N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)amino-2-iodoethane **1b** (44 mg, 0.11 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) and CO<sub>2</sub> (1 balloon) was bubbled through. MeOH (0.11 mL, 2.72 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added, followed by Ag<sub>2</sub>O (27 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool and silica plug and washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the unsymmetrical carbonate **2b** (38 mg, 99% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.63;

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 2834 (CH), 1749 (C=O), 1600 (C=C) and 1047 (CO);

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.23 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, Ar), 6.98 (2 H, br.s, Ar), 6.95 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, Ar), 6.79 (2 H, dd,  $J$  = 8.0 and 2.5 Hz, Ar), 4.24 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.82 (6 H, s, ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (3 H, s, OCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.65 (4 H, s, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N) and 2.79 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

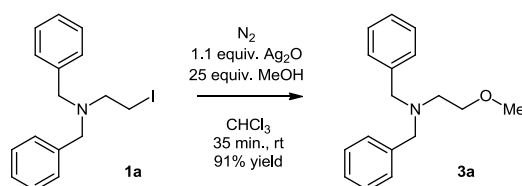
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.7 (Ar), 155.7 (C=O), 140.9 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 121.0 (Ar), 114.0 (Ar), 112.5 (Ar), 65.9 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 58.6 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 55.1 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 54.7 (OCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) and 51.7 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 360 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>);

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 360.1805 (MH<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> (MH<sup>+</sup>) requires 360.1811.

### Entry 3, Table 1

#### *N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-methoxyethane (**3a**)



$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (41 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added in one portion to a rapidly stirred solution of *N,N*-dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (57 mg, 0.16 mmol) and MeOH (0.16 mL, 4 mmol, 25 equiv.) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2 mL) under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere at room temperature. After 35 min. the reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool and silica plug and washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for purification, the ether **3a** (37 mg, 91% yield) as a colourless oil.

$R_f$  [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.53;

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 2923 (CH) and 1601 (C=C);

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.38 (4 H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, Ph), 7.30 (4 H, t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, Ph), 7.25-7.21 (2 H, m, Ph), 3.65 (4 H, s,  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{N}$ ), 3.49 (2 H, t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ ), 3.28 (3 H, s,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ ) and 2.66 (2 H, t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ );

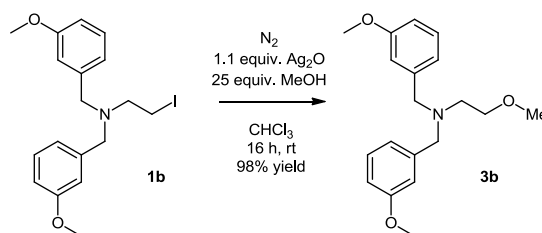
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 139.7 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 126.8 (Ph), 71.5 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ ), 58.9 ( $\text{PhCH}_2\text{N}$ ), 58.7 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ ) and 52.7 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OMe}$ );

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 256 (100%,  $\text{MH}^+$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 256.1691 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ).  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{MH}^+$ ) requires 256.1701.

#### Entry 4, Table 1

##### *N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)amino-2-methoxyethane (**3b**)



$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (49 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added in one portion to a rapidly stirred solution of *N,N*-bis-(3-methoxybenzyl)amino-2-iodoethane **1b** (80 mg, 0.19 mmol) and MeOH (0.2 mL, 4.94 mmol, 25 equiv.) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (3 mL) under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere at room temperature. After for 16 h. the reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool and silica plug and washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the ether **3b** (60 mg, 98% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

$R_f$  [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.66;

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 2833 (CH), 1600 (C=C) and 1048 (CO);

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.21 (2 H, t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, Ar), 6.98 (2 H, d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, Ar), 6.95 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, Ar), 6.78 (2 H, dd,  $J = 8.0$  and 2.5 Hz, Ar), 3.81 (6 H, s, ArOMe), 3.63 (4 H, s, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.50 (2 H, t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe), 3.29 (3 H, s, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe) and 2.69 (2 H, t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe);

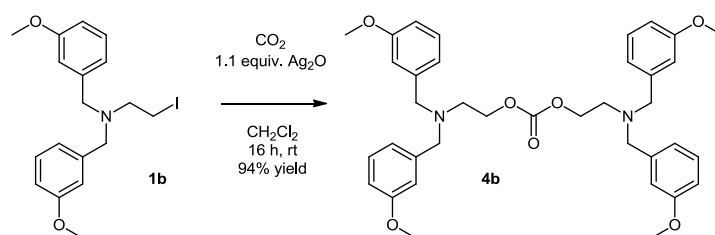
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 159.6 (Ar), 141.5 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 121.0 (Ar), 114.2 (Ar), 112.3 (Ar), 71.5 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe), 58.8 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 58.7 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe), 55.1 (ArOMe) and 52.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe);

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 338 (1%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ ) and 316 (100%,  $\text{MH}^+$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 338.1718 ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ) and 316.1891 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ).  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_3$  ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ) requires 338.1732 and  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{MH}^+$ ) requires 316.1913.

### Entry 5, Table 1

#### Bis-[2-*N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)aminoethyl] carbonate (**4b**)



A solution of *N,N*-bis-(3-methoxybenzyl)amino-2-iodoethane **1b** (133 mg, 0.32 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> (balloon) at room temperature for 2 h before Ag<sub>2</sub>O (81 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added in one portion and the reaction stirred for a further 16 h under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub>. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the symmetrical carbonate **4b** (95 mg, 94% yield) as a clear yellow oil.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 70:30] 0.40;

**IR**  $\nu_{\max}$  (liquid film) 3054 (CH), 1744 (C=O), 1601 (C=C) and 1264 (CO);

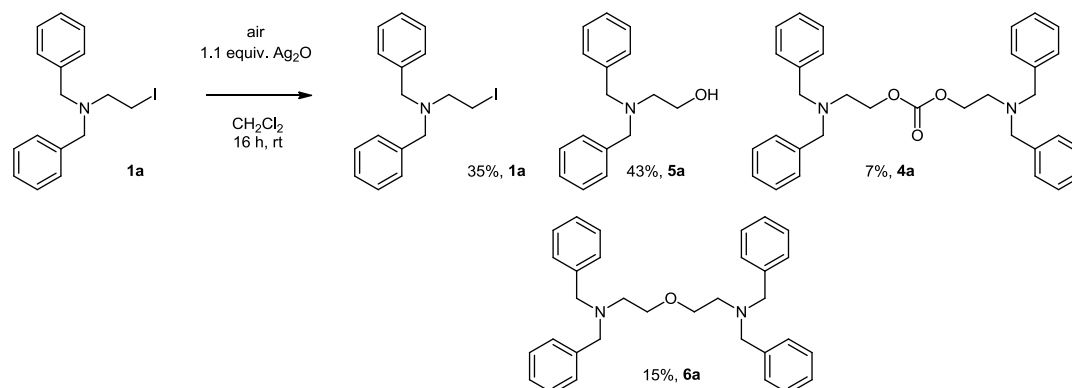
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.20 (4 H, t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, Ar), 6.95 (4 H, br.s, Ar), 6.93 (4 H, d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, Ar), 6.77 (4 H, dd,  $J$  = 8.0 and 2.0 Hz, Ar), 4.20 (4 H, t,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.79 (12 H, s, ArOMe), 3.63 (8 H, s, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N) and 2.77 (4 H, t,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.7 (Ar), 155.1 (C=O), 140.9 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 121.0 (Ar), 114.0 (Ar), 112.5 (Ar), 65.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 58.6 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 55.1 (ArOMe) and 51.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O);

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 651 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>);

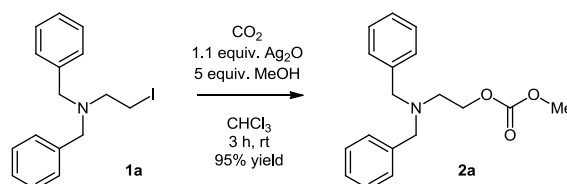
**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 651.3028 (MNa<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub> (MNa<sup>+</sup>) requires 651.3046.

### Entry 6, Table 1



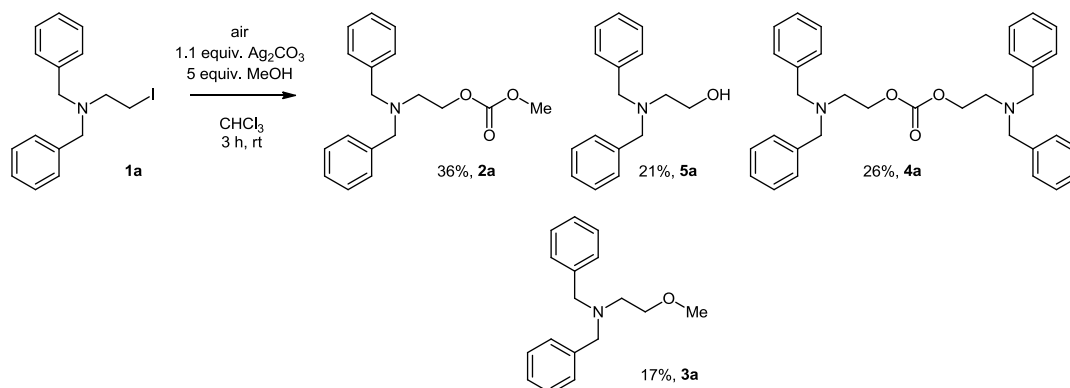
$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (67 mg, 0.29 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added in one portion to a rapidly stirred solution of *N,N*-dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (92 mg, 0.26 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) at room temperature open to the air. After 16 h. the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of this material showed unreacted starting material **1a** (35%), the symmetrical carbonate **4a** (7%), the alcohol **5a** (43%) and the symmetrical ether **6a** (15%).

### Entry 7, Table 1



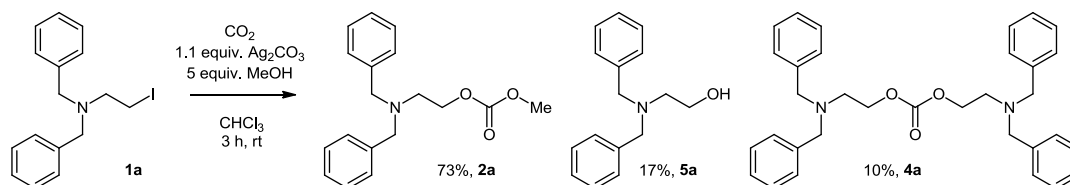
*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (196 mg, 0.56 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL) and  $\text{CO}_2$  was bubbled through. MeOH (0.11 mL, 2.80 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added, followed by  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (144 mg, 0.62 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of  $\text{CO}_2$  at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (158 mg, 95% yield) as a clear pale yellow oil, consistent with the spectroscopic data previously reported for carbonate **2a**.

### Entry 8, Table 1



$\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3$  (83 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added in one portion to a rapidly stirred solution of *N,N*-dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (96 mg, 0.27 mmol) and MeOH (0.05 mL, 1.35 mmol, 5 equiv. ) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL) at room temperature open to the air and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of this material showed the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (36%), the ether **3a** (17%), the symmetrical carbonate **4a** (26%) and the alcohol **5a** (21%).

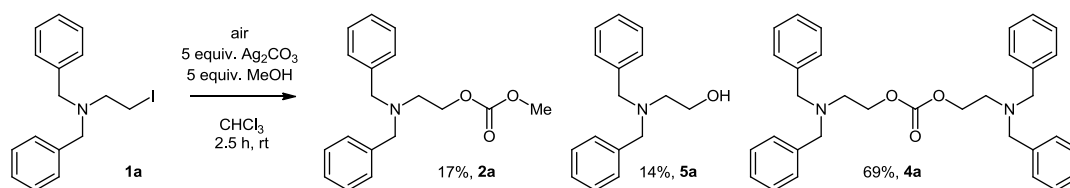
### Entry 9, Table 1



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (160 mg, 0.46 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (4 mL) and  $\text{CO}_2$  was bubbled through. MeOH (0.09 mL, 2.30 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added, followed by  $\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3$  (141 mg, 0.51 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of  $\text{CO}_2$  at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a clear yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of this material showed the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (73%), the alcohol **5a** (17%) and the symmetrical carbonate **4a** (10%).

### **Entry 10, Table 1**

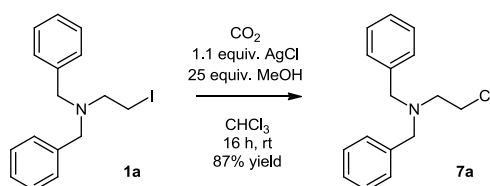
#### **Bis-(2-*N,N*-Dibenzylaminoethyl) carbonate (4a)**



Using 5 equivalents of Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as reported by Teranishi *et al.*,<sup>3,4</sup> Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (938 mg, 3.40 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added in one portion to a rapidly stirred solution of *N,N*-dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (237 mg, 0.68 mmol) and MeOH (0.14 mL, 3.40 mmol, 5 equiv.) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (9 mL) open to the atmosphere at room temperature. The flask was covered in foil<sup>5</sup> and after 2.5 h. the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a pale yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of this material showed the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (17%), the alcohol **5a** (14%) and the symmetrical carbonate **4a** (69%).

### Entry 11, Table 1

#### *N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-chloroethane (**7a**)



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (135 mg, 0.38 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (4 mL) and CO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled through. MeOH (0.39 mL, 9.62 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added followed by AgCl (62 mg, 0.43 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under a CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h. The resulting cloudy pale yellow mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the alkyl chloride **7a** (87 mg, 87% yield) as a clear yellow oil.

**R<sub>f</sub>** [PE:EtOAc 80:20] 0.55;

**IR**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (liquid film) 3003 (CH) and 1601 (C=C);

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.37 (4 H, d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 7.31 (4 H, t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, Ph), 7.24 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 3.65 (4 H, s, PhCH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.48 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl) and 2.83 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 139.4 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 59.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>N), 55.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl) and 42.1 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl);

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 260 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>) and 224 (12%, M<sup>+</sup>–Cl);

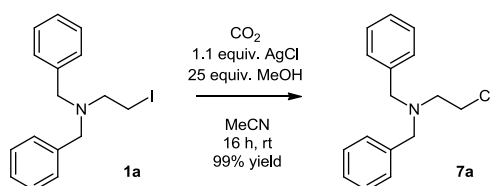
**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 260.1185 (MH<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN (MH<sup>+</sup>) requires 260.1206.

Consistent with the spectroscopic data previously reported for the alkyl chloride **7a**.<sup>6</sup>



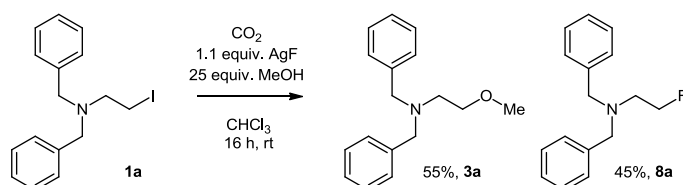
### **Entry 12, Table 1**

#### ***N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-chloroethane (**7a**)**



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (82 mg, 0.23 mmol) was dissolved in MeCN (2 mL) and  $\text{CO}_2$  was bubbled through. MeOH (0.24 mL, 5.75 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added followed by AgCl (36 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under a  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h. The resulting cloudy pale yellow mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, washed with EtOAc (10 mL) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the alkyl chloride **7a** (60 mg, 99% yield) as a clear yellow oil.

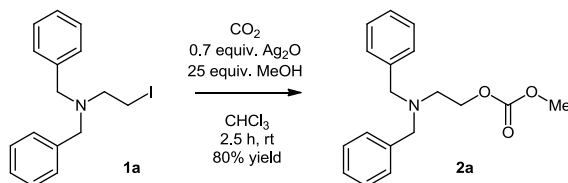
### **Entry 13, Table 1**



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (65 mg, 0.19 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (3 mL) and  $\text{CO}_2$  was bubbled through. MeOH (0.19 mL, 4.63 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added followed by AgF (27 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under a  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of silica and washed with EtOAc (10 mL) and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a pale orange oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of this material showed the methyl ether **3a** (55%) and the alkyl fluoride **8a** (45%), which were consistent with the spectroscopic data previously reported in this study for the methyl ether **3a** and with the alkyl fluoride **8a** described previously.<sup>7</sup>

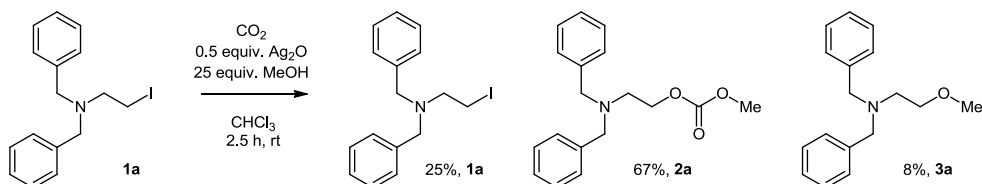
**Investigation of the Ag<sub>2</sub>O loading**  
**Table 2**

**Entry 2, Table 2**



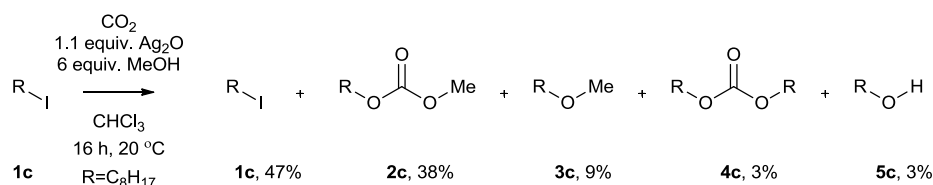
*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (74 mg, 0.21 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) and CO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled through. MeOH (0.21 mL, 5.25 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added, followed by Ag<sub>2</sub>O (35 mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.7 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> at room temperature for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool plug and washed with EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give, without the need for further purification, the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (50 mg, 80% yield) as a colourless oil.

**Entry 3, Table 2**



*N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane **1a** (74 mg, 0.21 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) and CO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled through. MeOH (0.21 mL, 5.25 mmol, 25 equiv.) was added, followed by Ag<sub>2</sub>O (25 mg, 0.11 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> at room temperature for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a cotton wool plug and washed with EtOAc (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of this material showed unreacted starting material **1a** (25%), the unsymmetrical carbonate **2a** (67%) and the methyl ether **3a** (8%).

## Scheme 4

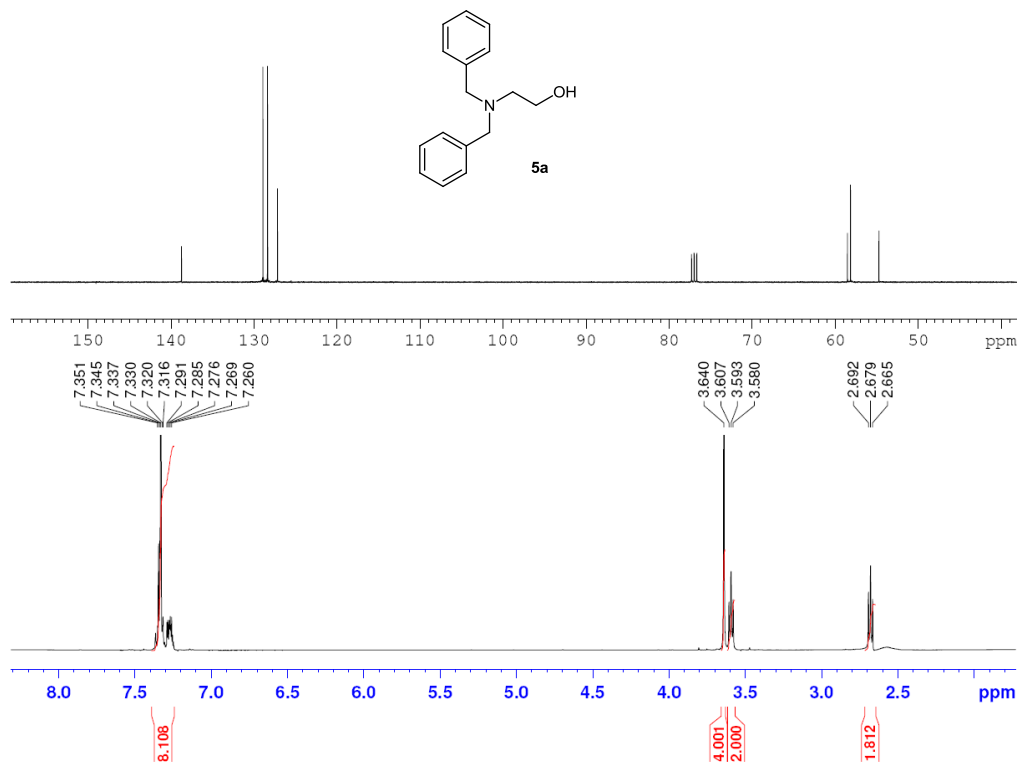


1-Iodooctane **1c** (0.36 mL, 2 mmol, 1eq.) was dissolved in  $CHCl_3$  (15 mL) and  $CO_2$  was bubbled through. MeOH (0.49 mL, 12 mmol, 6 eq.) was added followed by  $Ag_2O$  (510 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 eq.) and the reaction vigorously stirred under a  $CO_2$  atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h.  $Na_2SO_4$  was added and the reaction mixture filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with  $CHCl_3$  (20 mL). The solvent removed under reduced pressure to afford a colourless oil.  $^1H$  NMR of this material showed unreacted starting material **1c** (47%), the unsymmetrical carbonate **2c** (38%), the unsymmetrical ether **3c** (9%), the symmetrical carbonate **4c** (3%) and octanol **5c** (3%). Assignments were made with the spectroscopic data previously reported for the unsymmetrical **2c**<sup>8-10</sup> and symmetrical **4c**<sup>9,10</sup> carbonates.

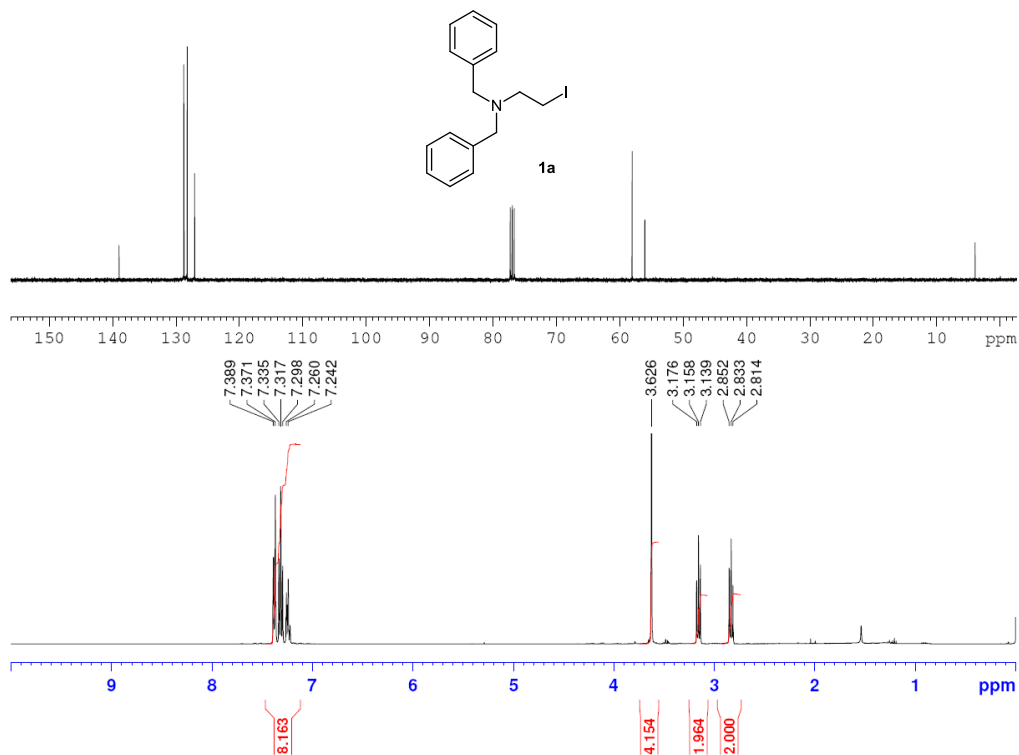
## Experimental References

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9. P. Tundo, F. Arico, A. E. Rosamilia and S. Memoli, *Green Chemistry*, 2008, **10**, 1182-1189.
10. P. Tundo, C. R. McElroy and F. Aricò, *Synlett*, 2010, 1567-1571.

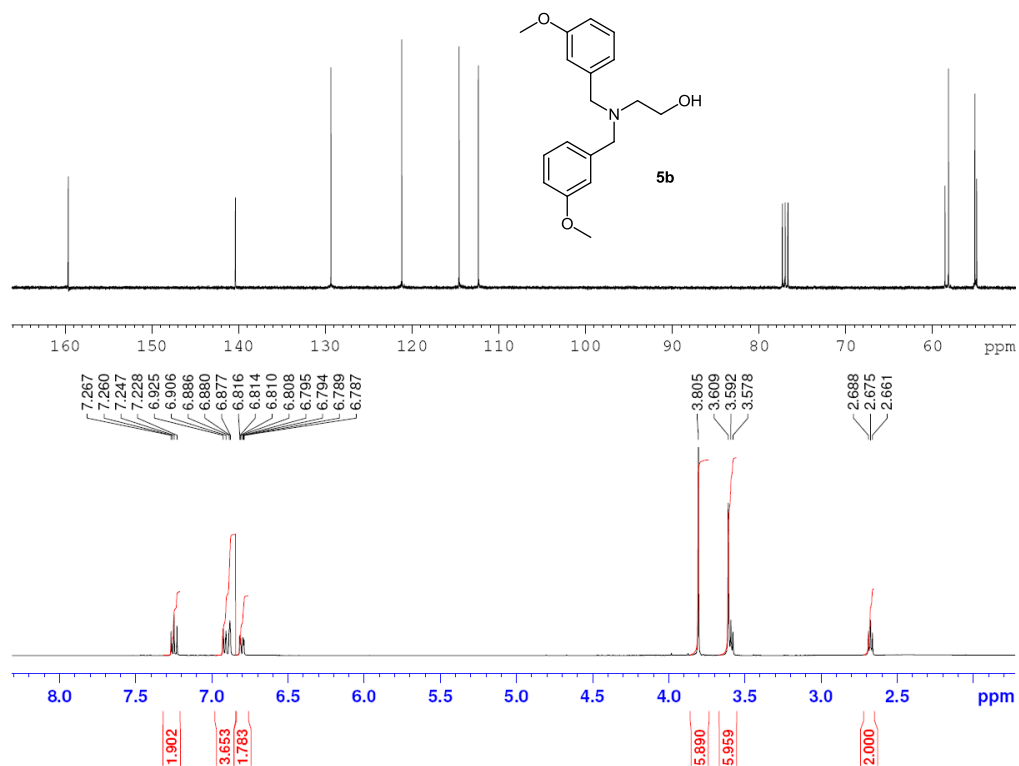
***N,N*-Dibenzyl-2-aminoethanol (5a)**



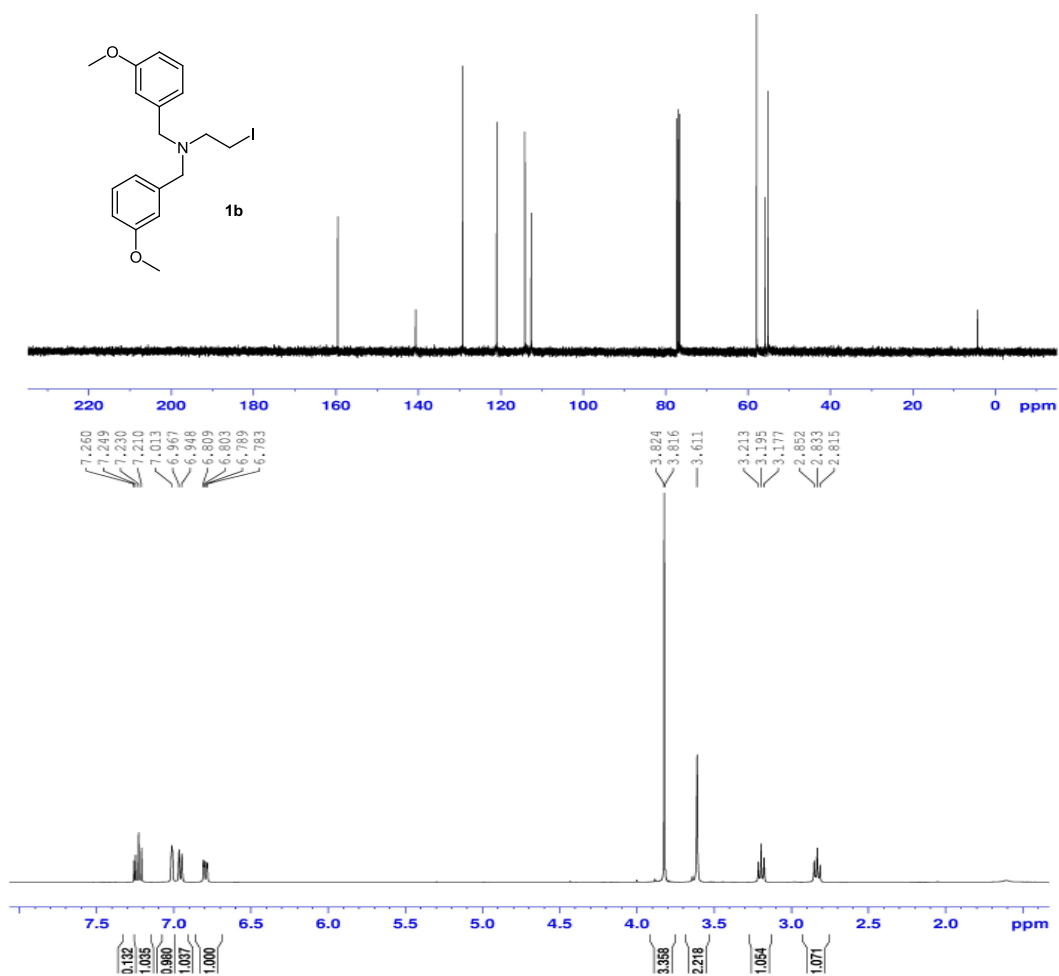
***N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-iodoethane (1a)**



***N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)-2-aminoethanol (5b)**

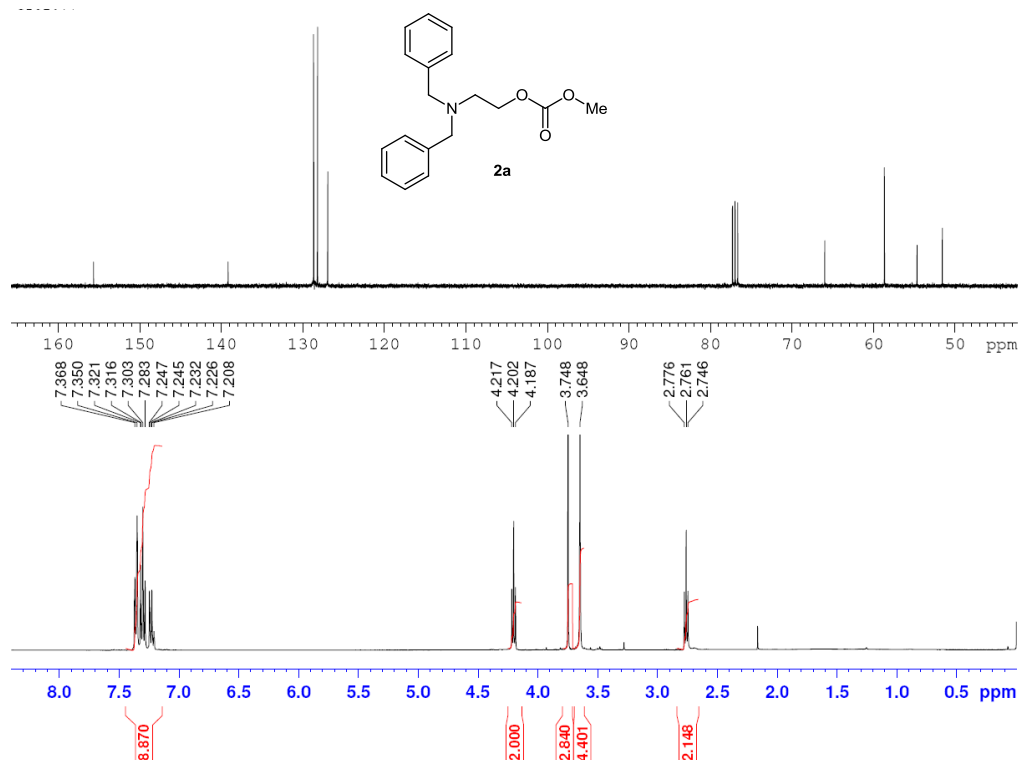


***N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)amino-2-iodoethane (1b)**



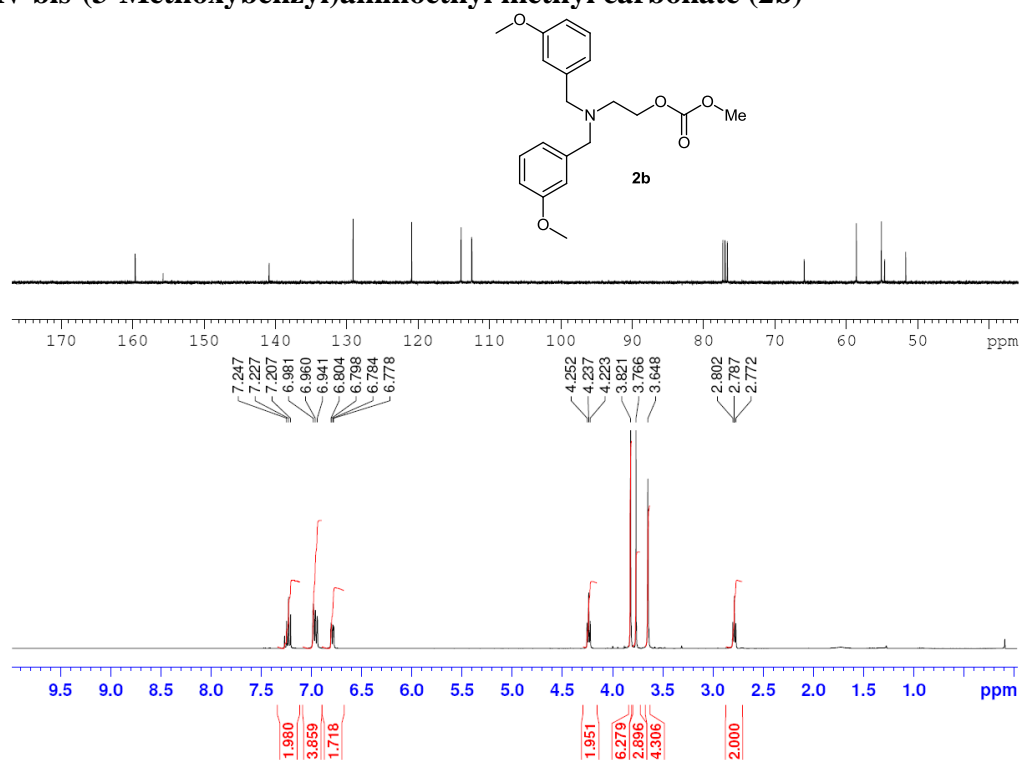
### Entry 1, Table 1

#### 2-*N,N*-Dibenzylaminoethyl methyl carbonate (2a)



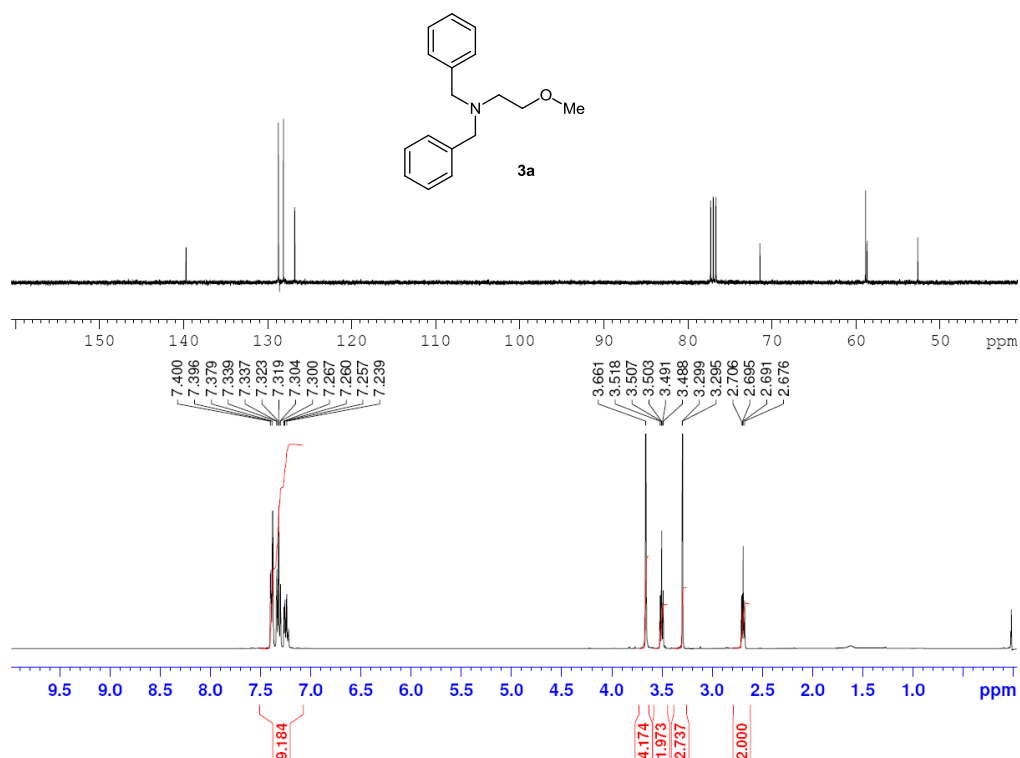
### Entry 2, Table 1

#### 2-*N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)aminoethyl methyl carbonate (2b)



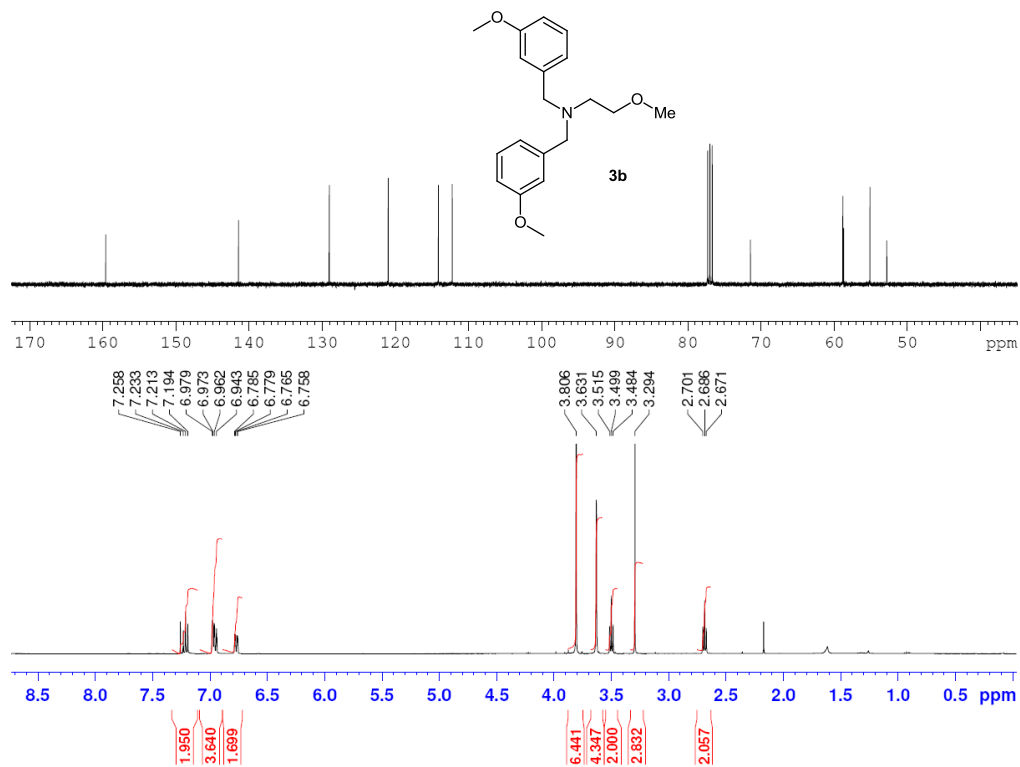
### Entry 3, Table 1

#### *N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-methoxyethane (3a)



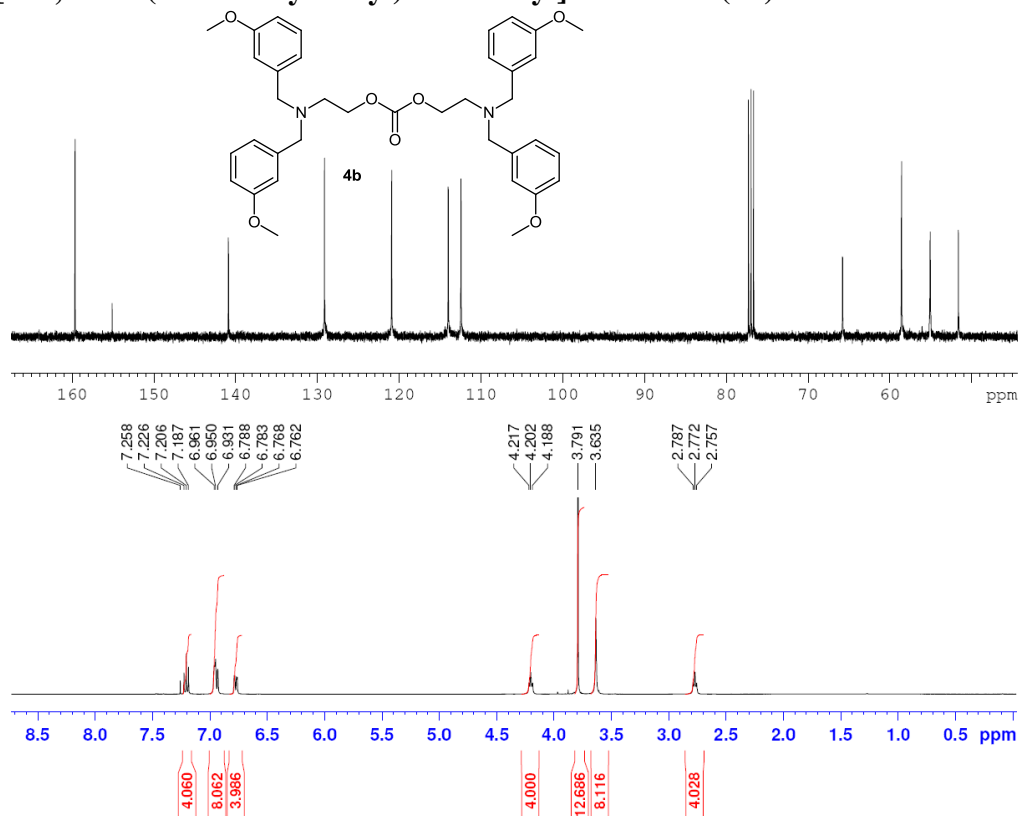
### Entry 4, Table 1

#### *N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)amino-2-methoxyethane (3b)



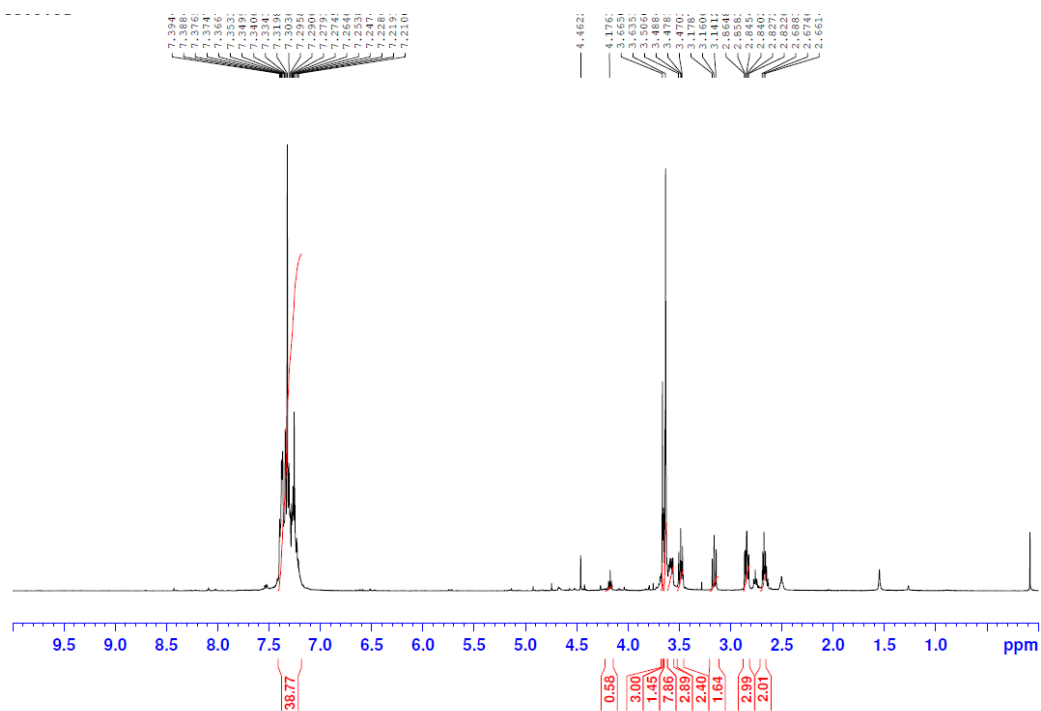
**Entry 5, Table 1**

**Bis-[2-*N,N*-bis-(3-Methoxybenzyl)aminoethyl] carbonate (4b)**

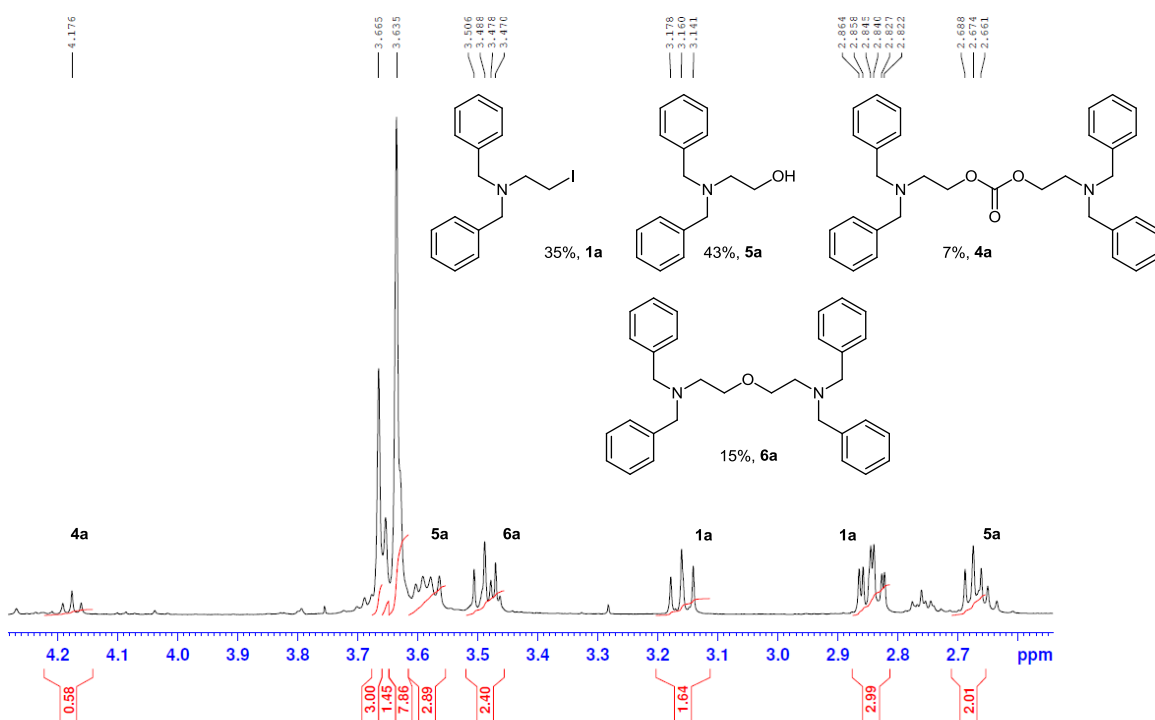




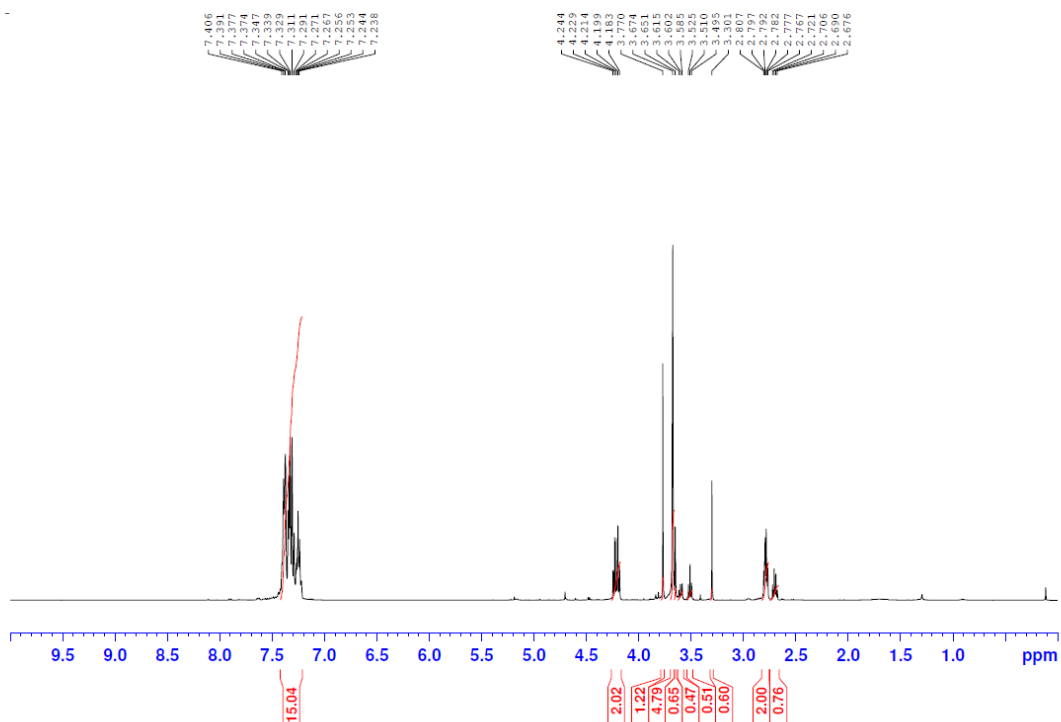
## Entry 6, Table 1



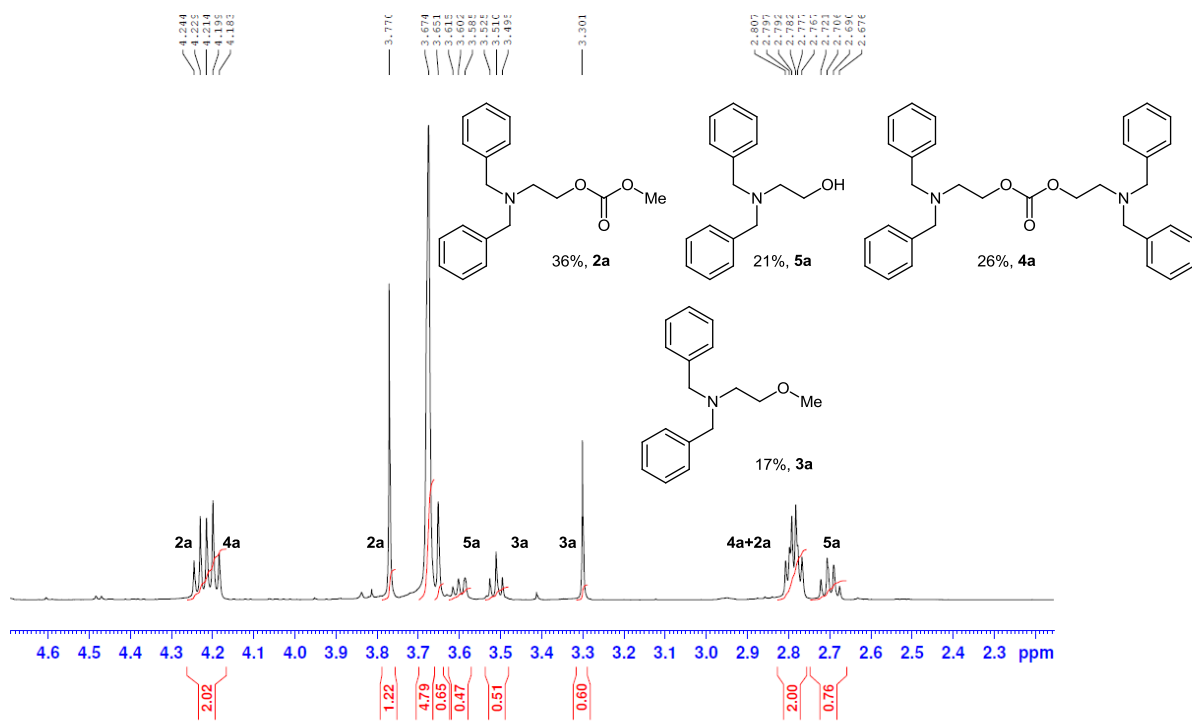
## Expansion



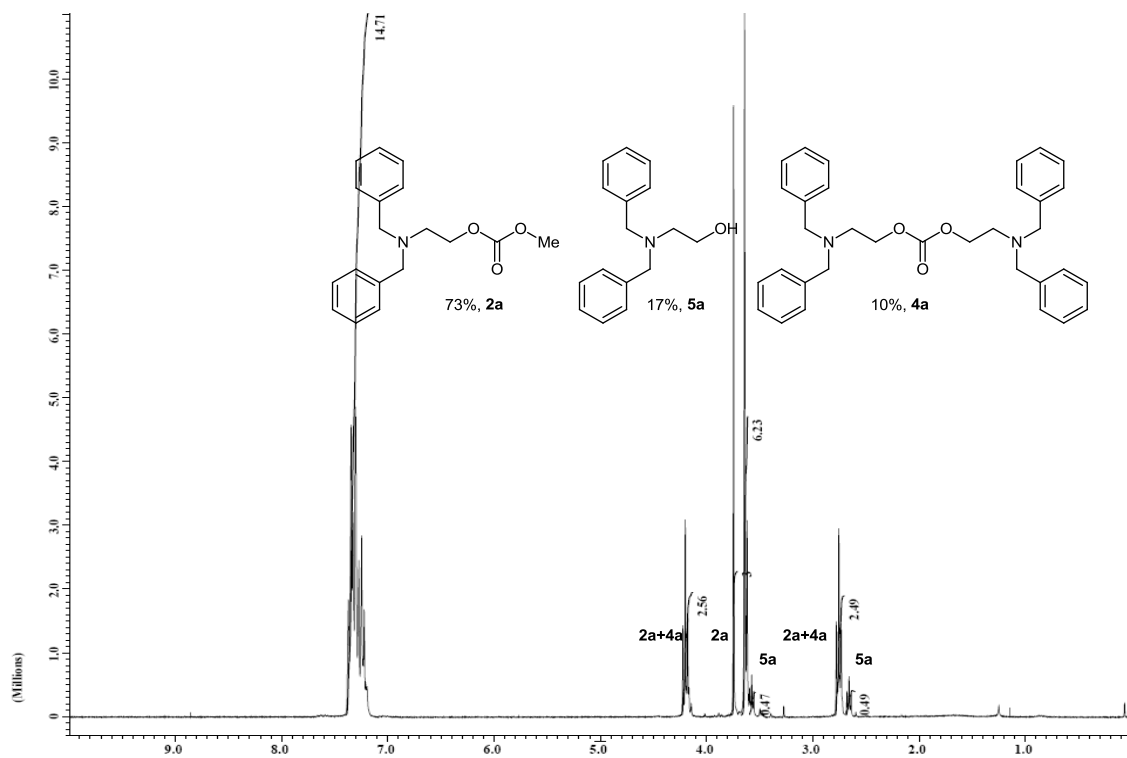
## Entry 8, Table 1



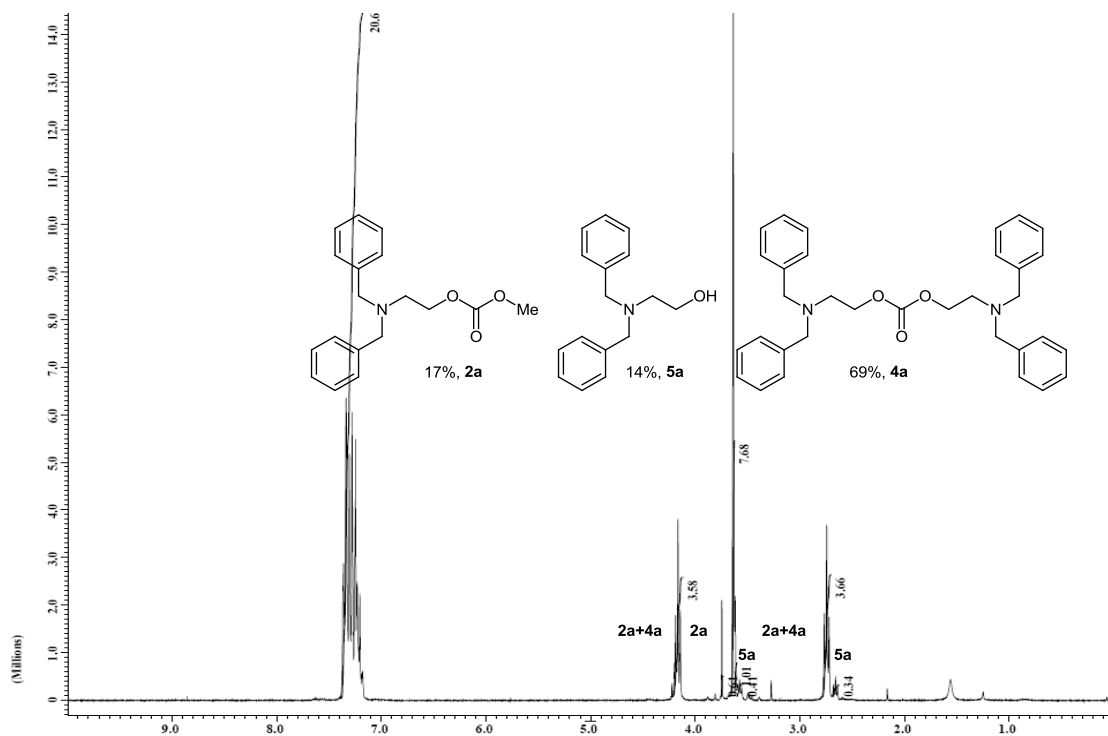
## Expansion



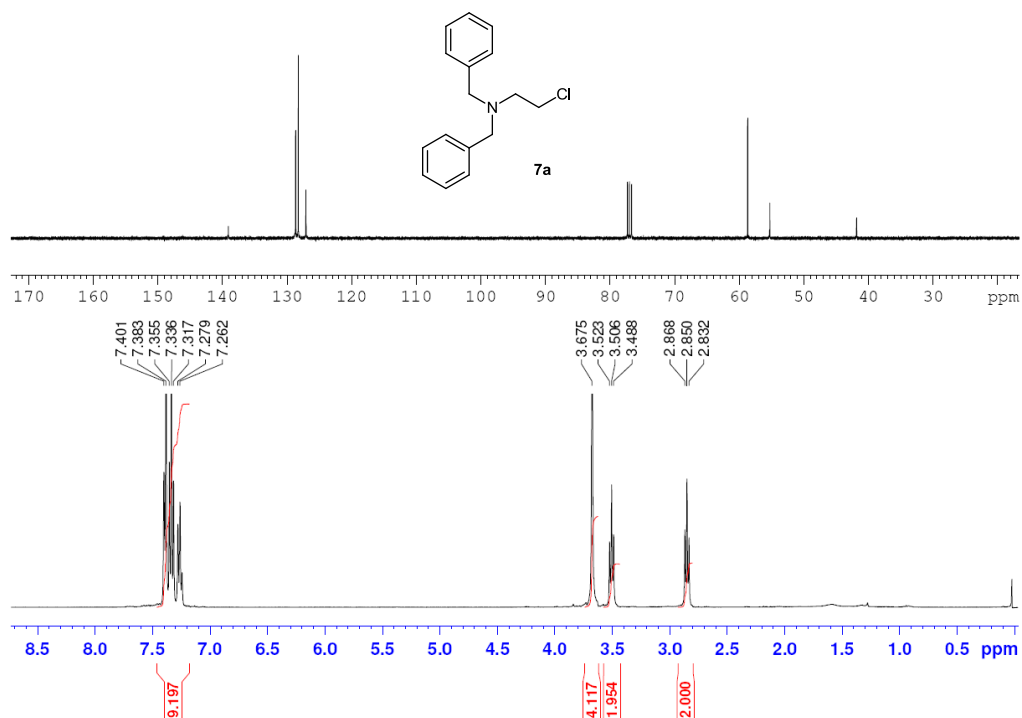
### Entry 9, Table 1



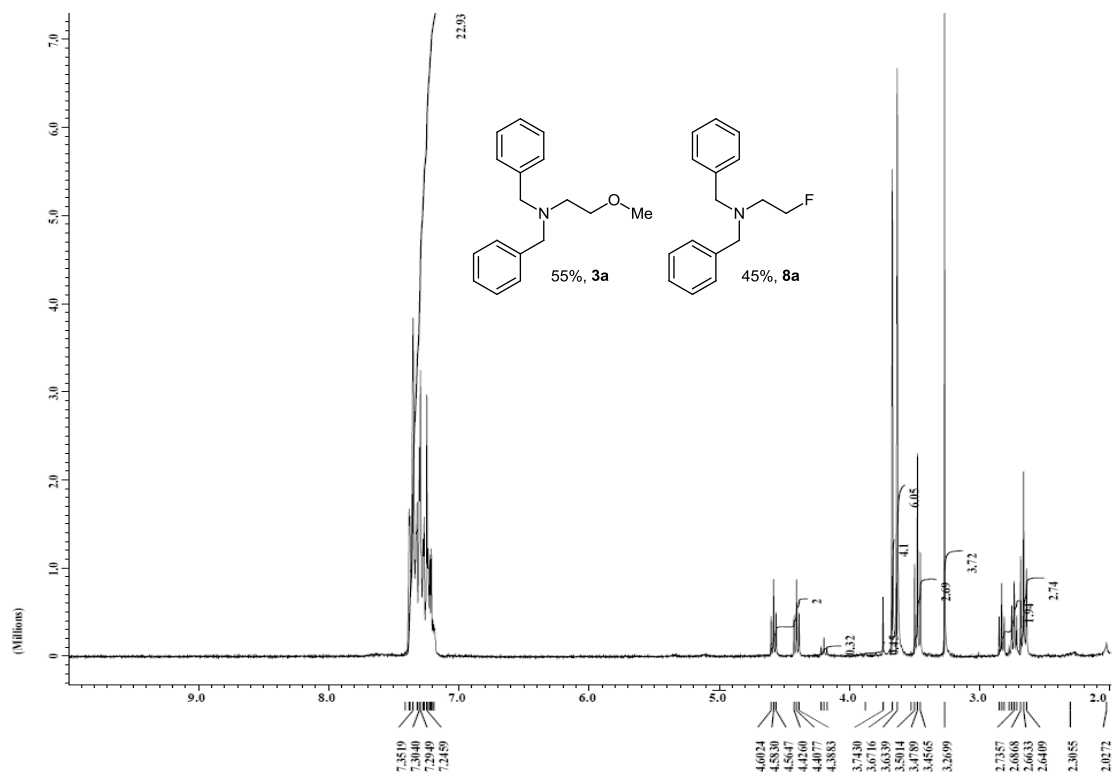
### Entry 10, Table 1



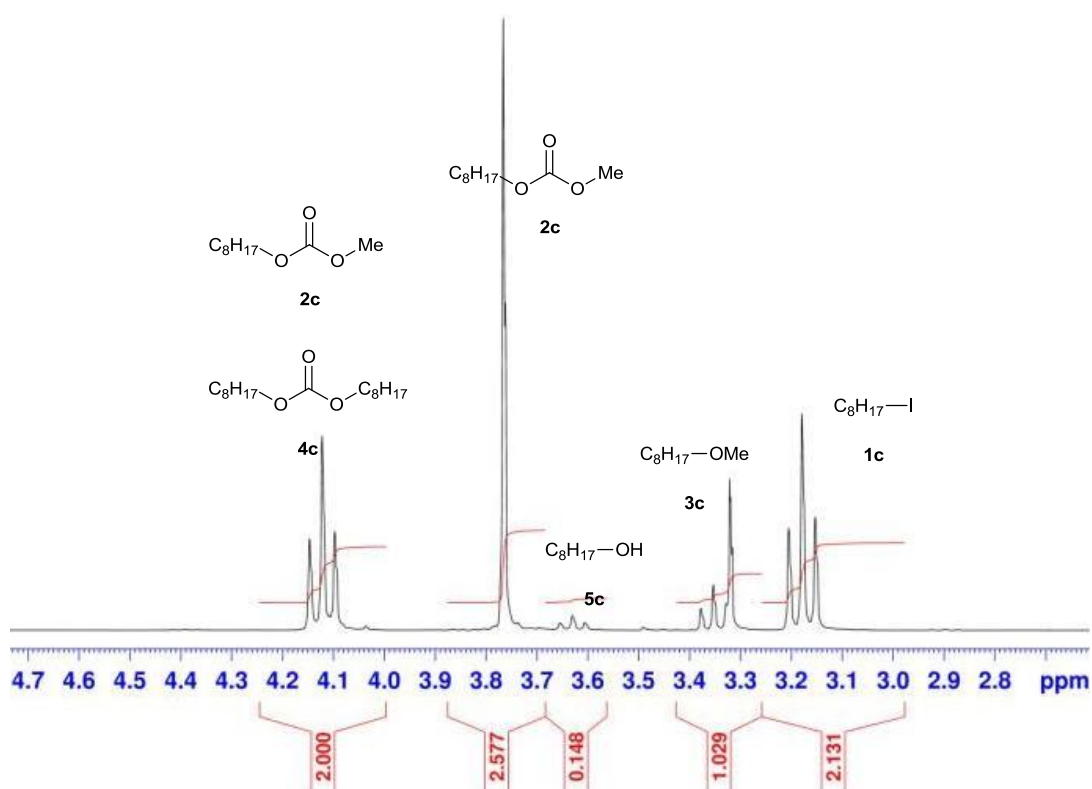
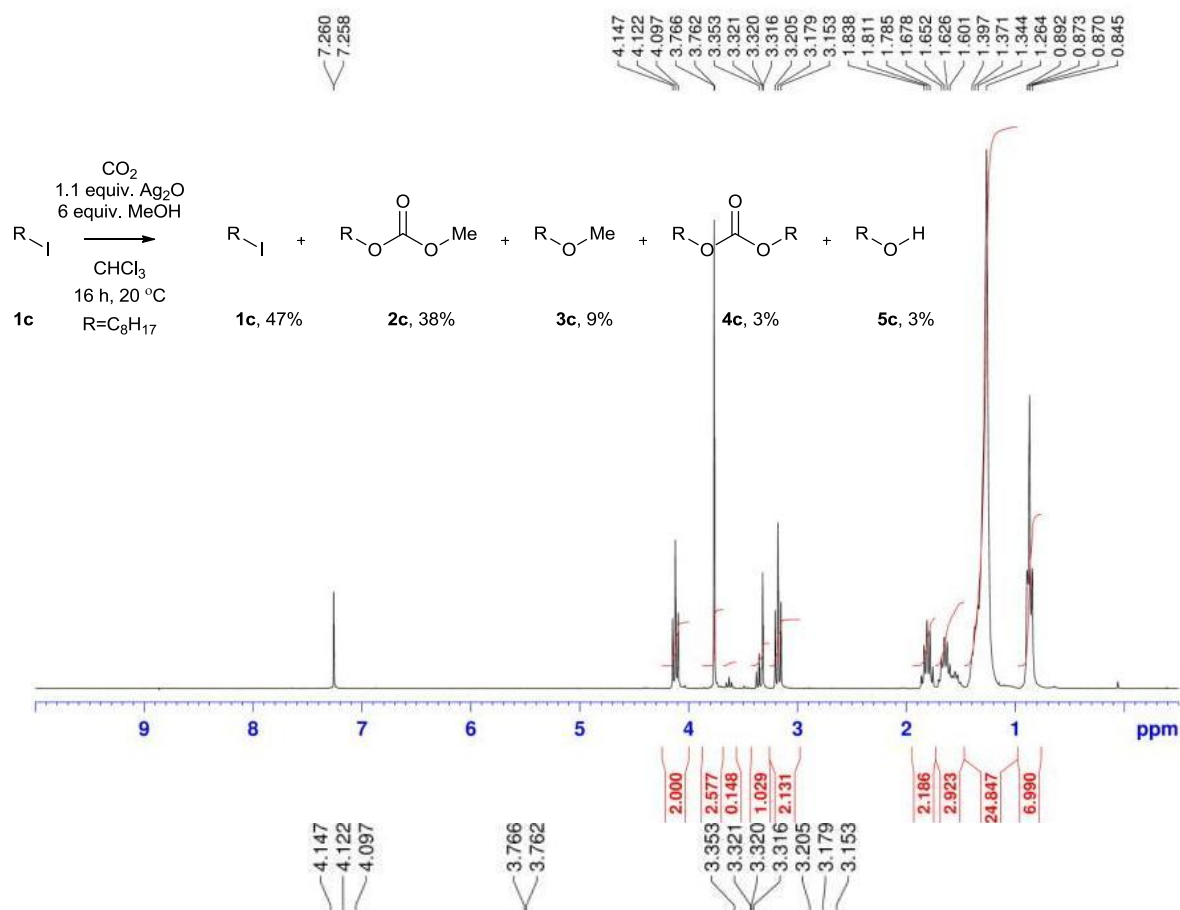
***N,N*-Dibenzylamino-2-chloroethane (7a)**



**Entry 13, Table 1**



# **Scheme 4**



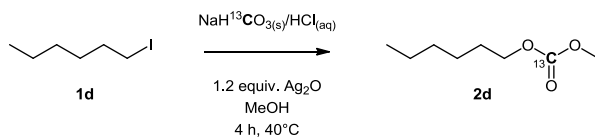
## Synthetic Procedure for the Optimisation Study (Table 3)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\text{R-X} \xrightarrow[\text{R}^1\text{-OH solvent}]{\text{CO}_2 \text{ balloon}, \text{Ag(I) salt}} \text{R-X}</math>  <b>1</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\text{R-O-C(=O)-O-R}^1</math>  <b>2</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\text{3, R-OR}^1</math>  <b>6, R-OR</b>  <b>9, R-OBz</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\text{R-O-C(=O)-O-R}</math>  <b>4</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\text{R-OH}</math>  <b>5</b> </div> </div>											
Entry	R-X 1	R <sup>1</sup> -OH (equiv.)	Ag <sub>2</sub> O (equiv.)	T (°C)	Time (h)	solvent	R-X 1	ROCO <sub>2</sub> R <sup>1</sup> 2	R-O-R <sup>1</sup> 3 (6/9) <sup>b</sup>	ROCO <sub>2</sub> R 4	R-OH 5
1	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	20	18	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	56	22	9	4	9
2	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	45	20	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	31	25	25	5	14
3	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.1	50	20	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	76	8	5	2	9
4	Oct-I	BnOH (5)	1.1	50	20	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	20	35	22	3	20
5	Oct-I	BnOH (5)	1.5	45	20	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	14	36	24	4	22
6	Oct-I	MeOH (5)	1.1	45	16	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	32	42	10	4	12
7	Oct-I	EtOH (5)	1.1	45	16	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	59	24	7	2	8
8	Oct-I	iPrOH (5)	1.5	45	16	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	16	44	13 (3), 2 (6)	10	15
9	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	20	18	PhMe	69	17	4	2	8
10	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	45	18	PhMe	51	19	11	3	16
11	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	100	18	PhMe	-	11	48 (3), 2 (6), 10 (9)	2	27
12	Oct-I	BnOH (5)	1.5	100	18	PhMe	-	10	47 (3), 11 (9)	1	31
13 <sup>c</sup>	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	100	18	PhMe	6	-	71 (3), 2 (6), 14 (9)	-	7
14	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	20	18	MeCN	7	15	3 (3), 2 (6)	7	66
15	Oct-I	BnOH (1.5)	1.5	45	18	MeCN	3	19	5 (3), 1 (6)	6	66
16	Oct-I	BnOH (20)	1.5	20	20	neat	-	55	44	1	-
17	Oct-I	BnOH (20)	1.5	45	4	neat	-	43	40	1	16
18 <sup>d</sup>	Oct-I	MeOH (123)	1.1	40	4	neat	-	72	7	2	19
19	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	1.5	45	5	neat	-	72	13	4	11
20	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	1.5	45	20	neat	-	75	12	4	9
21	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	0.5	45	5	neat	45	37	10	2	6
22	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	0.5	45	20	neat	31	37	23	2	7
23	Hex-Br	iPrOH (30)	1.5	45	20	neat	4	27	4	3	62
24	Hex-Br	BnOH (20)	1.5	45	20	neat	12	12	21 (3), 1 (9)	1	53
25	Hex-Br	BnOH (20)	2	45	16	neat	10	14	22	1	53
26	Hex-Cl	iPrOH (30)	2	45	16	neat	100	-	-	-	-
27	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	1.5Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	45	20	neat	15	35	12 (3), 4 (6)	21	13
28 <sup>c</sup>	Oct-I	iPrOH (30)	1.5Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	45	20	neat	28	6	31 (3), 3 (6)	7	25
29	Hex-I	BnOH (20)	3 AgCl	45	20	neat	100	-	-	-	-
30	Hex-I	BnOH (20)	3 AgNO <sub>3</sub>	45	20	neat	-	-	54 (3), 46 (9)	-	-
31	Hex-I	BnOH (20)	2.5 AgI	45	16	neat	100	-	-	-	-
			+ 1.0 Ag <sub>2</sub> O	45	5	neat	-	40	41	2	17

<sup>a</sup> The ratios are expressed as % and were obtained from <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude reaction mixture after it had been filtered through Celite® and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. All experiments were conducted with 1 mmol of R-X under an atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> generated from the sublimation of dry ice, except where indicated. <sup>b</sup> All values are of the unsymmetrical ether **3**, unless otherwise stated. <sup>c</sup> Reaction conducted under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>d</sup> Reaction conducted with 3 mmol Oct-I in 15 mL MeOH.

A balloon filled with CO<sub>2(g)</sub>, generated by the sublimation of commercially available dry ice, was bubbled through a rapidly stirred suspension of the alkyl halide (1mmol), Ag(I) salt and an alcohol in a solvent (if any) at room temperature in a sealed tube. The reaction was then sealed, thus maintaining a CO<sub>2(g)</sub> atmosphere, and heated at the required temperature for the times shown in Table 3 above. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite®, washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> and the solvent carefully evaporated under reduced pressure. <sup>1</sup>H NMR was performed of the crude reaction mixture and the ratio of products calculated from integration of indicative signals.

## Synthetic Procedures for $^{13}\text{C}$ -labelled experiments (Table 4, Scheme 5)



The desired mixture of  $\text{NaHCO}_3(\text{s})$  was accurately weighted and placed in a sealed 5 mL round-bottomed flask, fitted with a cannula which was positioned in the air-space *above* the reaction mixture. The other end of the cannula was positioned *in* the reaction mixture of a separate and sealed round-bottomed flask which contained a rapidly stirred suspension of the alkyl iodide,  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  and MeOH at room temperature. This flask was also fitted with an empty balloon to act as a reservoir of the  $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$  produced. The addition of 3M  $\text{HCl}(\text{aq})$  to the first flask containing the  $\text{NaHCO}_3(\text{s})$  generated  $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$  which passed through the cannula and into the reaction mixture in the second flask and into the balloon reservoir. Once the bubbling had ceased and no more  $\text{NaHCO}_3(\text{s})$  was evident, the cannula was removed from the reaction mixture in the second flask and the reaction heated to 40  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 hours under the balloon filled with  $\text{CO}_2$ . The reaction was filtered through filter paper and cotton wool, washed with MeOH and the solvent carefully removed under reduced pressure to afford carbonate **2d**.

### **Entry 1, Table 4.** Measured ratio **100:0** $\text{NaH}^{12}\text{CO}_3$ : $\text{NaH}^{13}\text{CO}_3$

Following the general procedure,  $\text{CO}_2$  generated by the addition of 3M HCl to  $\text{NaH}^{12}\text{CO}_3$  (571 mg, 6.80 mmol, 5 eq.) was bubbled through a rapidly stirred mixture of 1-iodohexane (287 mg, 1.36 mmol, 1 eq.) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (377 mg, 1.63 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in MeOH (2.5 mL) to give the carbonate **2d** (137 mg, 63% yield) as a colourless oil.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 4.12 (2 H, t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 3.76 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 1.64 (2 H, quintet,  $J = 7.0$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2$ ), 1.40-1.24 (6 H, m,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ) and 0.86 (3 H, t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ );

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR**  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 155.84 (C=O), 68.21 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 54.57 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 31.33 ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ), 28.56 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCO}_2$ ), 25.29 ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ), 22.46 ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ) and 13.93 ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3$ );

**MS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) 184.1 (10%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ ) and 183.1 (100%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ );

**HRMS**  $m/z$  (+ESI) Found 183.1035 ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ).  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3$  ( $\text{MNa}^+$ ) requires 183.0997.

**Entry 2, Table 4. Measured ratio 75:25 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Following the general procedure, CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the addition of 3M HCl to a mixture of 75% NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (428.4 mg, 5.10 mmol, 3.75 eq.) and 25% NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (144.5 mg, 1.70 mmol, 1.25 eq.) was bubbled through a rapidly stirred mixture of 1-iodohexane (288 mg, 1.36 mmol, 1 eq.) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (378 mg, 1.63 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in MeOH (2.5 mL) to give the carbonate **2d** (148 mg, 68% yield) as a colourless oil.

**Entry 3, Table 4. Measured ratio 50:50 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Following the general procedure, CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the addition of 3M HCl to a mixture of 50% NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (286 mg, 3.40 mmol, 2.50 eq.) and 50% NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (289 mg, 3.40 mmol, 2.50 eq.) was bubbled through a rapidly stirred mixture of 1-iodohexane (287 mg, 1.36 mmol, 1 eq.) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (378 mg, 1.63 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in MeOH (2.5 mL) to give the carbonate **2d** (148 mg, 68% yield) as a colourless oil.

**Entry 4, Table 4. Measured ratio 25:75 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Following the general procedure, CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the addition of 3M HCl to a mixture of 25% NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (143 mg, 1.70 mmol, 1.25 eq.) and 75% NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (435 mg, 5.12 mmol, 3.76 eq.) was bubbled through a rapidly stirred mixture of 1-iodohexane (288 mg, 1.36 mmol, 1 eq.) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (378 mg, 1.63 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in MeOH (2.5 mL) to give the carbonate **2d** (153 mg, 70% yield) as a colourless oil.

**Entry 5, Table 4. Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Following the general procedure, CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the addition of 3M HCl to NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (425 mg, 5 mmol, 5 eq.) was bubbled through a rapidly stirred mixture of 1-iodohexane (212 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (278 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in MeOH (2 mL) to give the carbonate **2d** (96 mg, 60% yield) as a colourless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 4.12 (2 H, tt, *J* = 6.5 and 1.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.76 (3 H, t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1.72-1.61 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>), 1.40-1.24 (6 H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) and 0.88 (3 H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** δ<sub>C</sub> (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 155.82 (<sup>13</sup>C=O), 68.16 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 54.48 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 31.30 (CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 28.55 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>), 25.26 (CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 22.41 (CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) and 13.86 (CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>);

**MS** *m/z* (+ESI) 185.1 (7.6%, MNa<sup>+</sup>), 184.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>) and 183.1 (3.0%, MNa<sup>+</sup>);

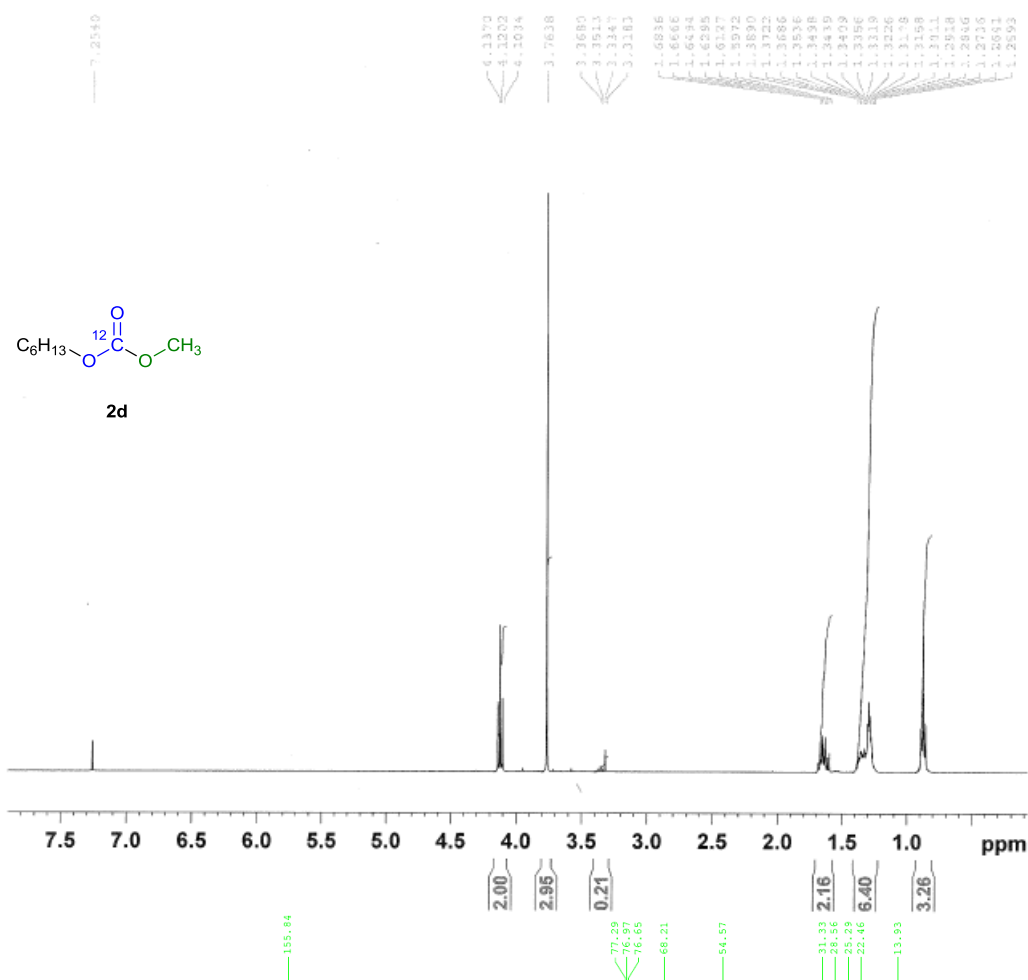
**HRMS** *m/z* (+ESI) Found 184.1025 (MNa<sup>+</sup>). C<sub>7</sub><sup>13</sup>CH<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> (MNa<sup>+</sup>) requires 184.1031.



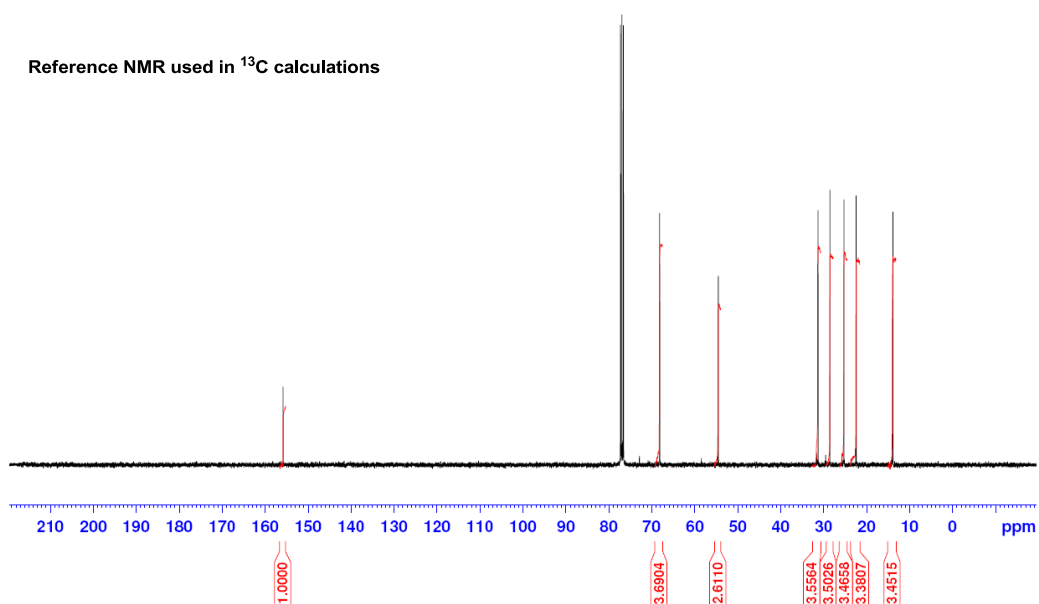
# NMR Spectra for the $^{13}\text{C}$ -labelled $\text{CO}_2$ experiments

Measured ratio 100:0  $\text{NaH}^{12}\text{CO}_3:\text{NaH}^{13}\text{CO}_3$

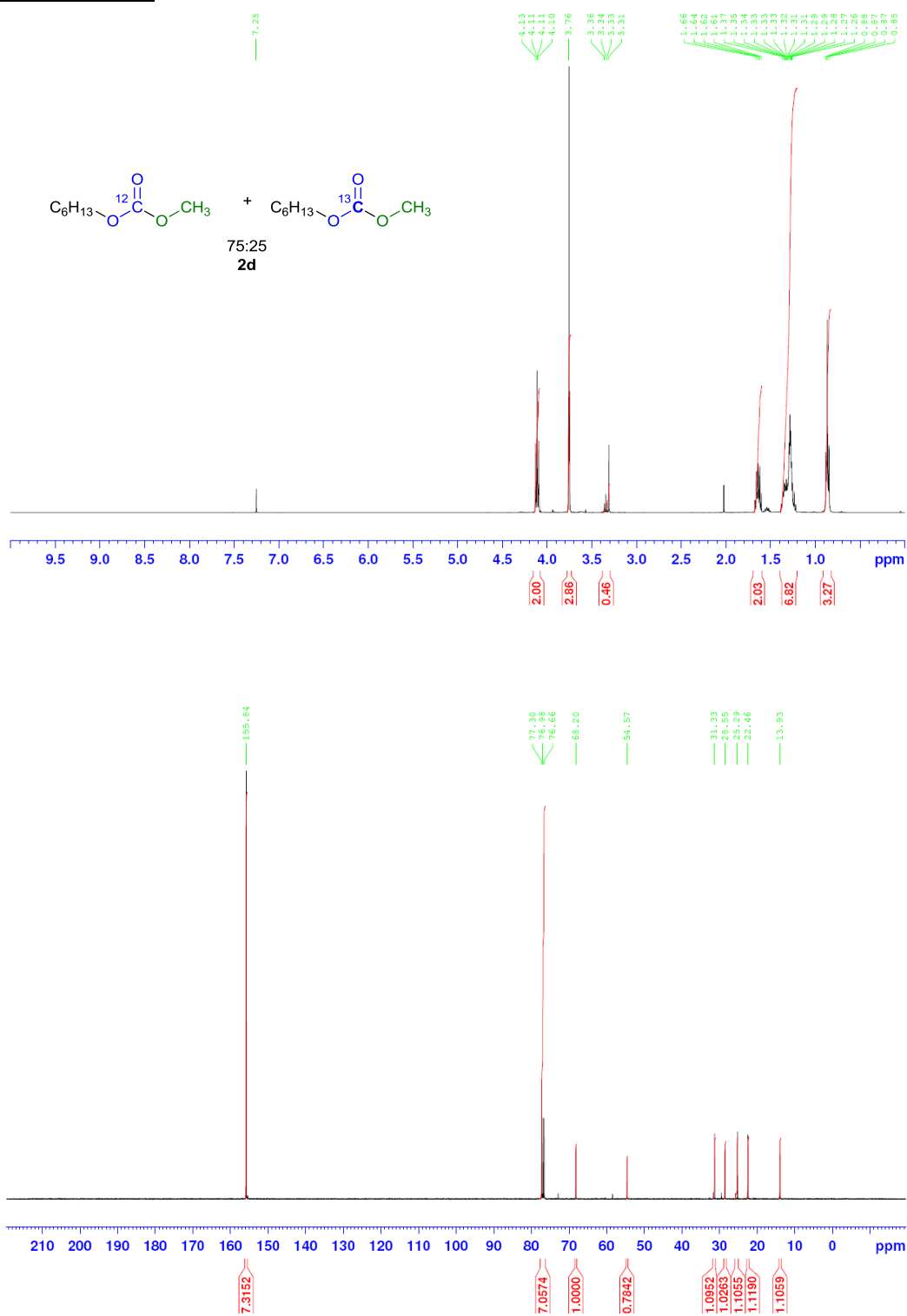
Entry 1, Table 4



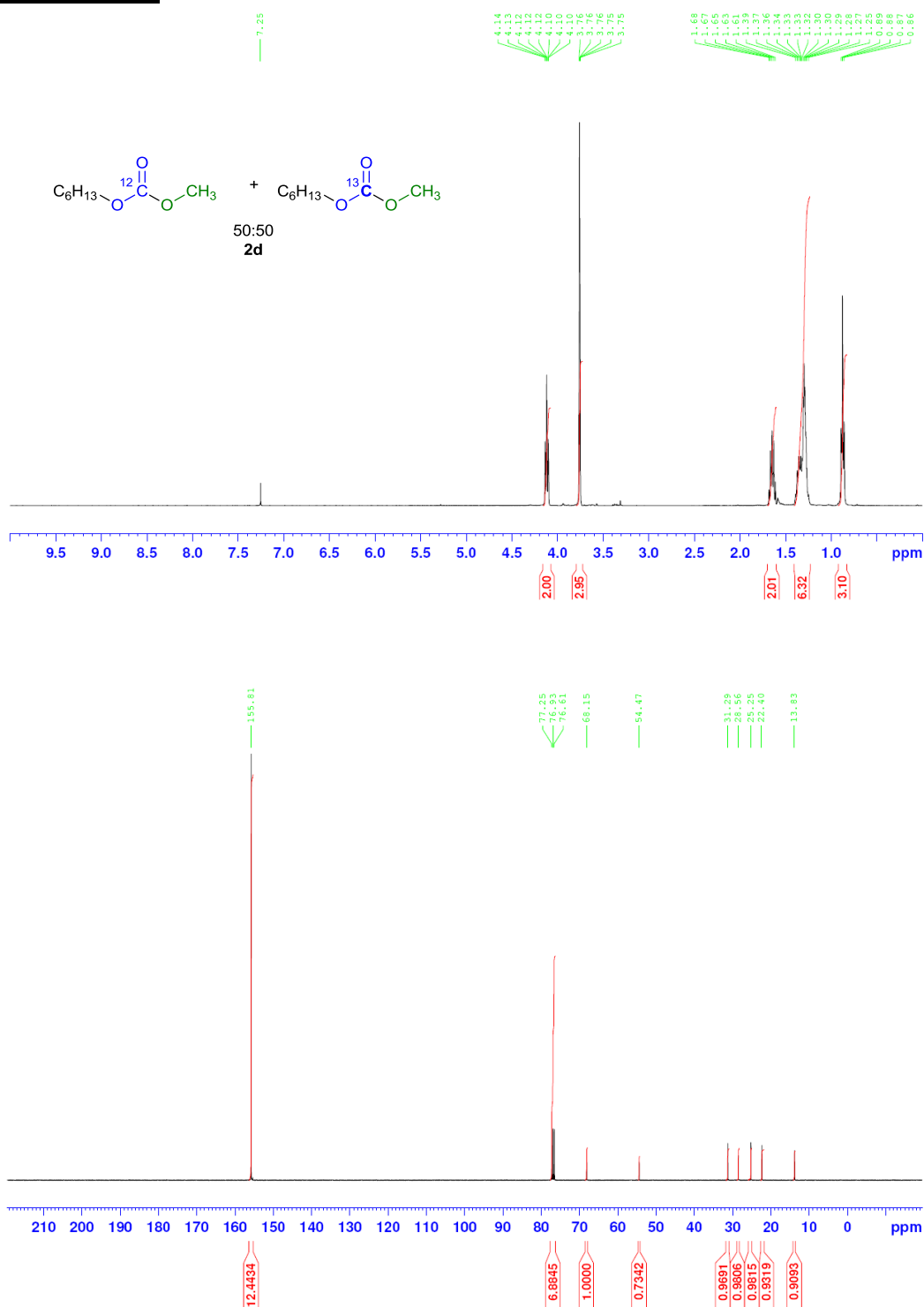
Reference NMR used in  $^{13}\text{C}$  calculations



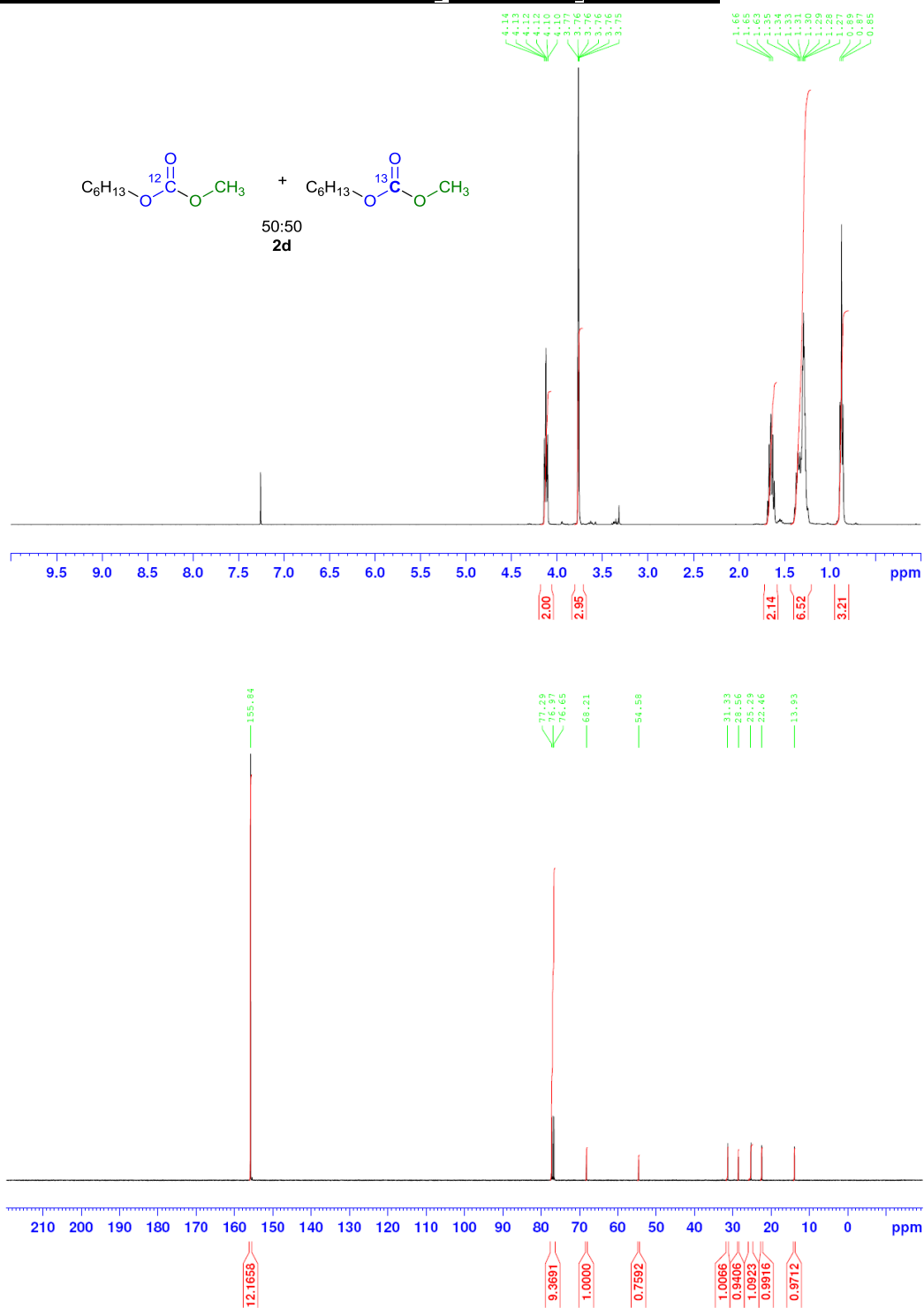
**Measured ratio 75:25 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**Entry 2, Table 4**



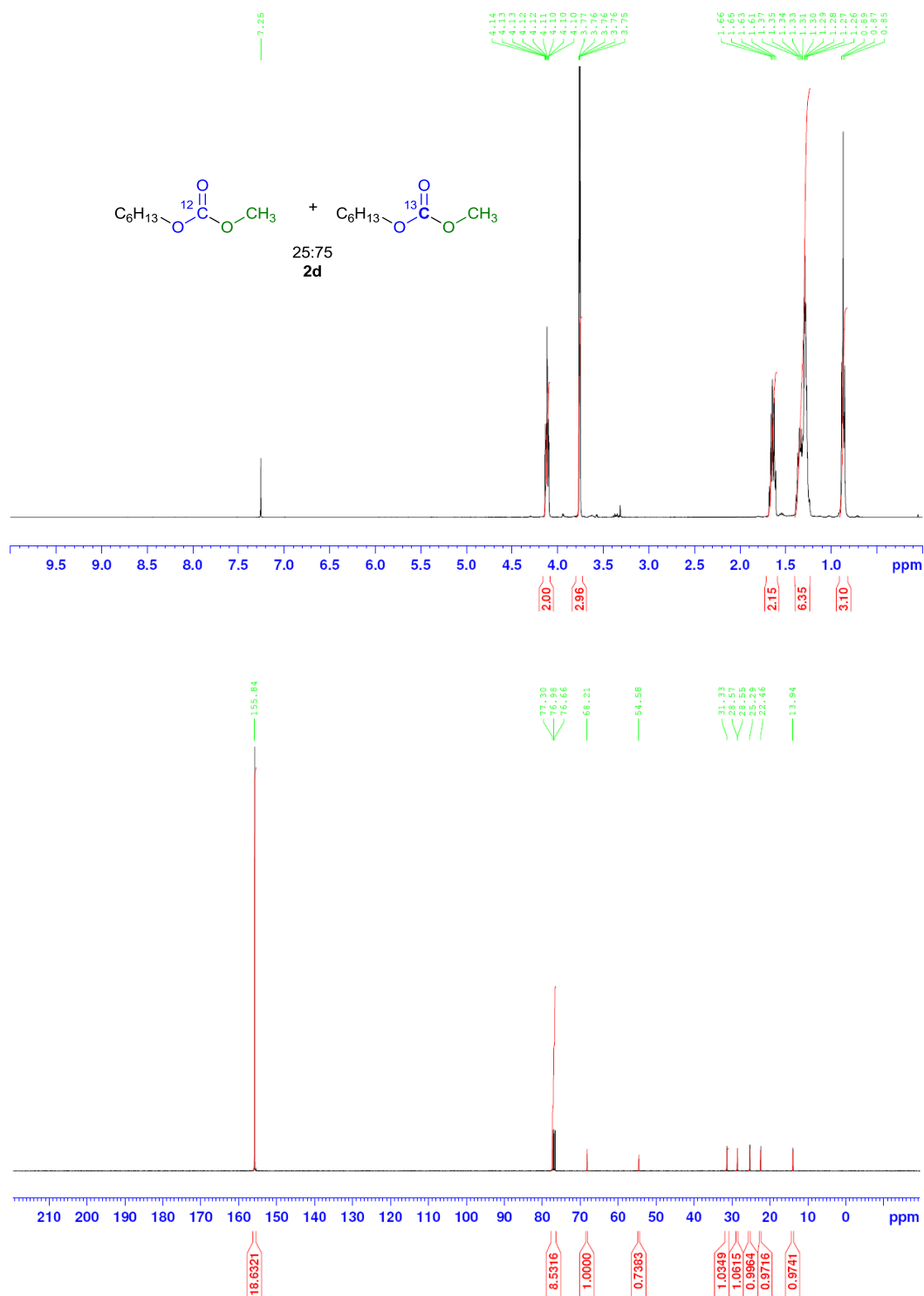
**Measured ratio 50:50 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**Entry 3, Table 4**



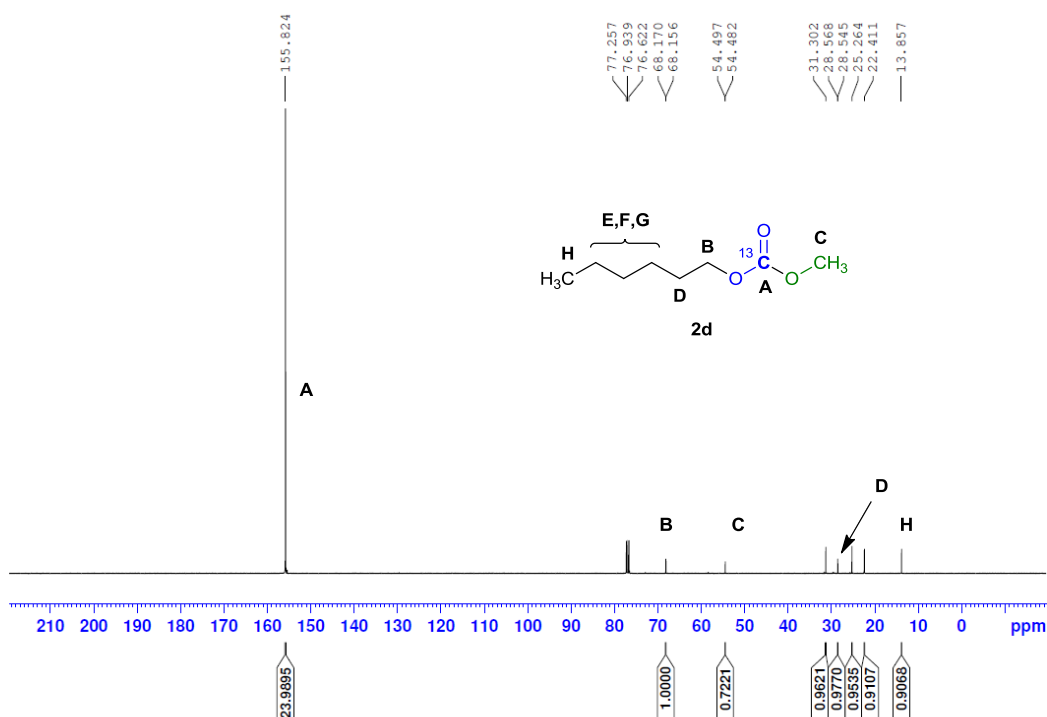
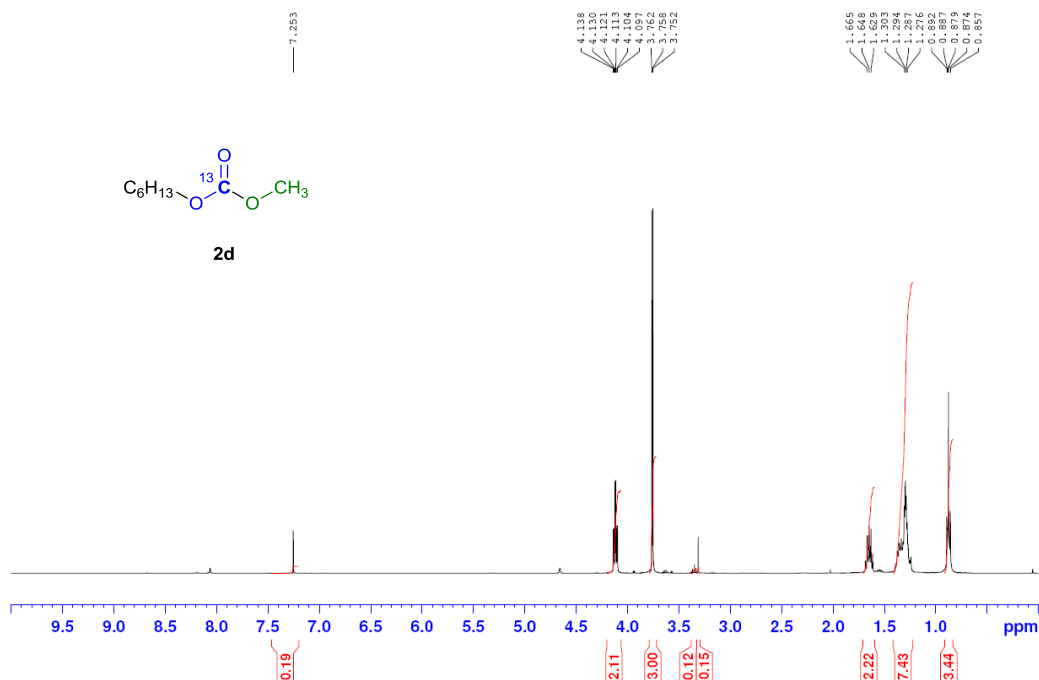
**Measured ratio 50:50 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**As Entry 3, Table 4, but purged with N<sub>2</sub> before CO<sub>2</sub> generation**



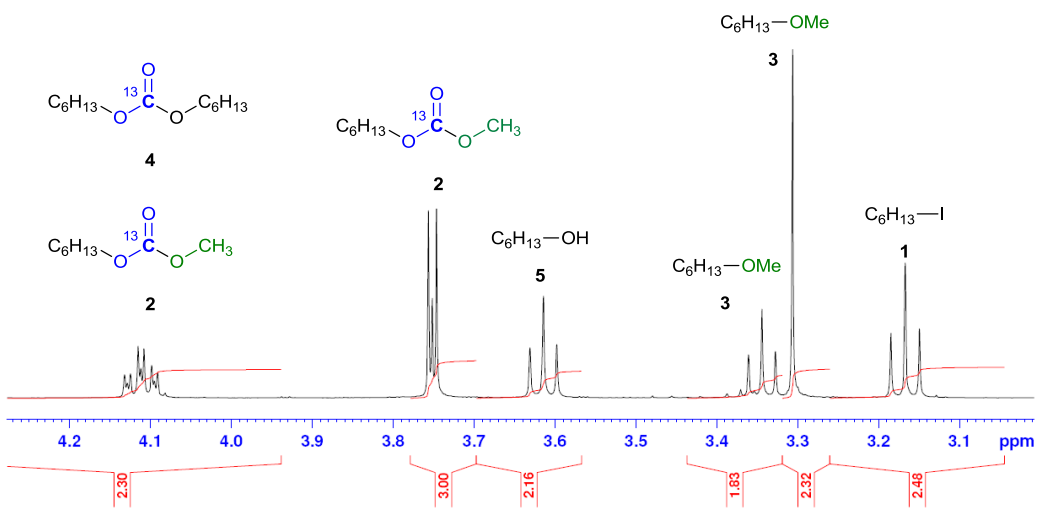
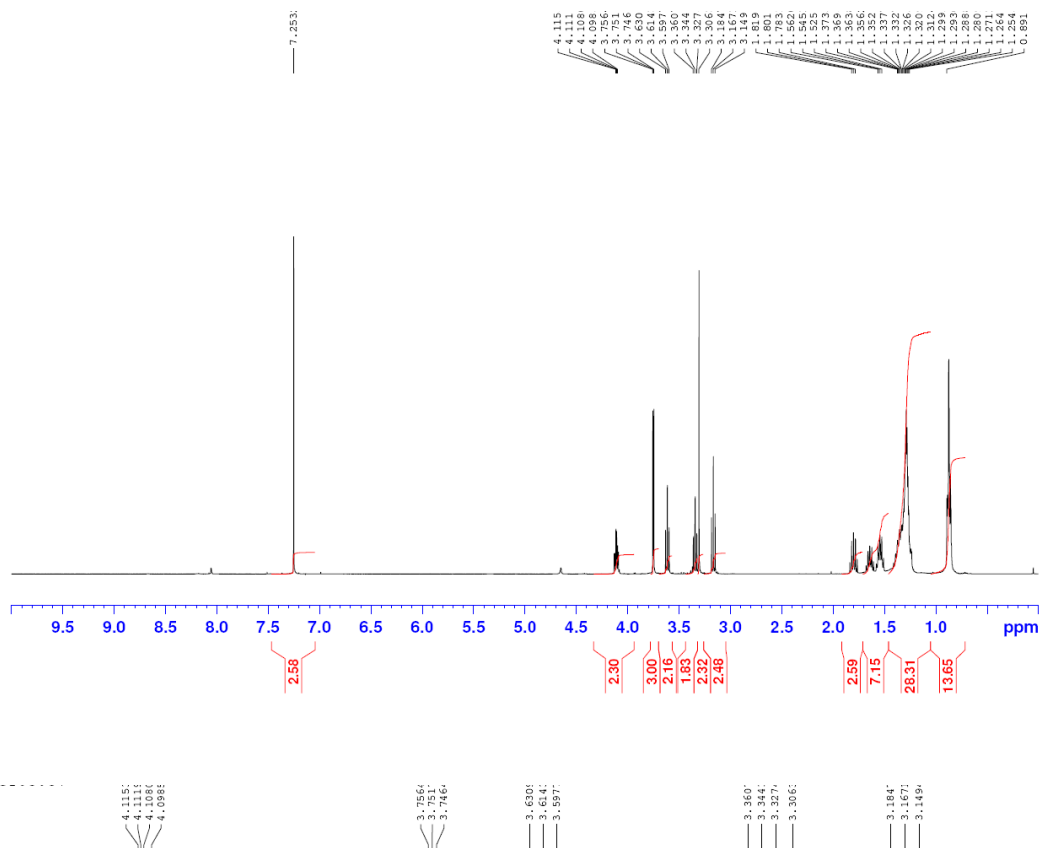
**Measured ratio 25:75 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**Entry 4, Table 4**



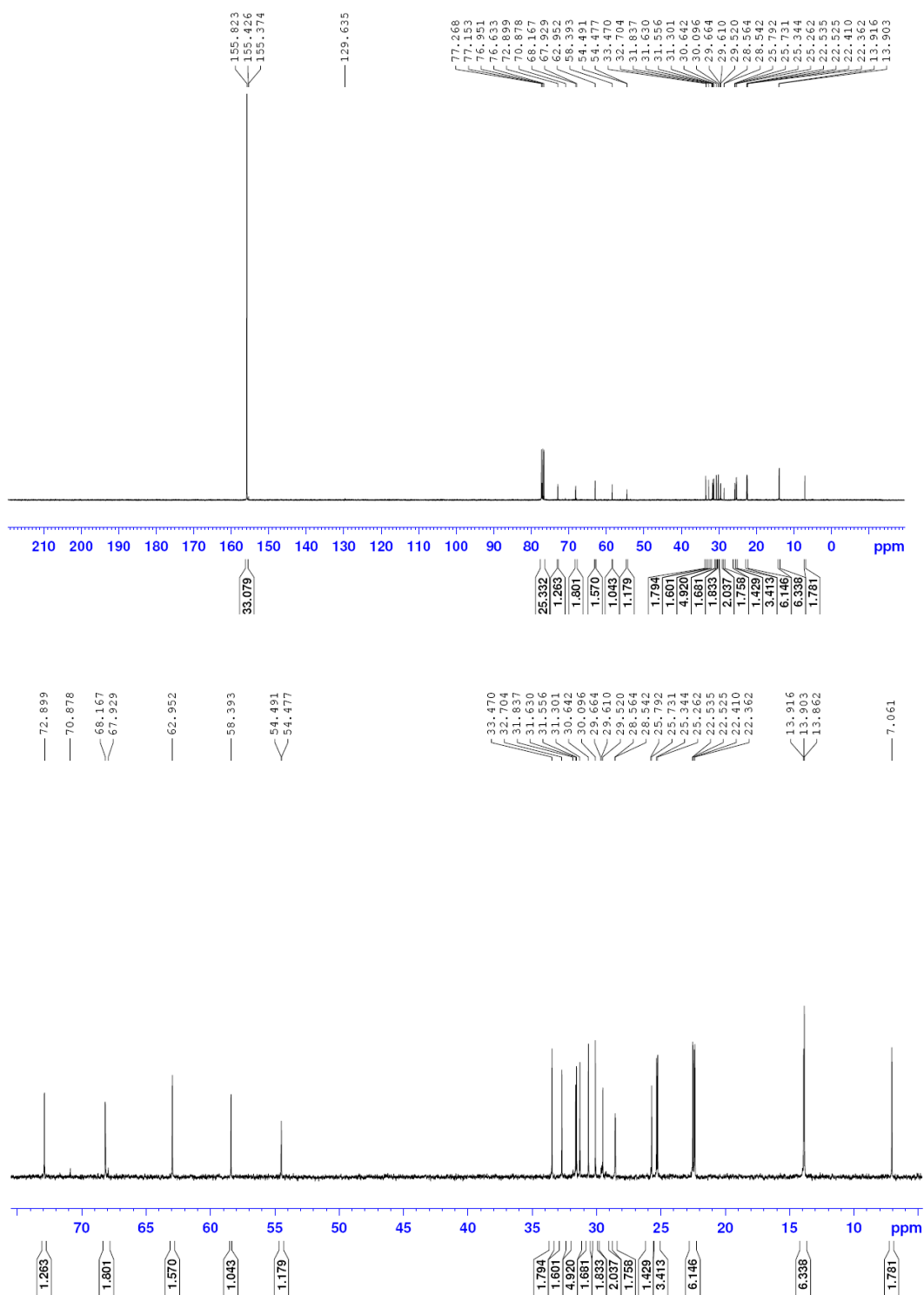
**Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**Entry 5, Table 4**



**Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**  
**As Entry 5, Table 4, but with Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>**



**Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>  
As Entry 5, Table 4, but with Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>**





**Isotopic labelling experiments**  
**Determination of ratios by  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR**

Simultaneous equations: **x** is the proportion of the integral corresponding to the  $^{12}\text{C}$  compound and **y** is the proportion of the integral corresponding to the  $^{13}\text{C}$  compound.

Standard 100 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR experiments were performed, with 1024 scans. Owing to different relaxation times, the integral of the C=O peak differs to the integrals of the remaining peaks, although each peak represents a single carbon. The difference in the integrals was determined from the non-labelled compound ("reference  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR", page S6), which was incorporated in the equations below as the "integration factor".

In addition, the C=O signal for the  $^{13}\text{C}$  compound **y** will be 100% abundant, so in order to make a direct comparison with the C=O signal for the  $^{12}\text{C}$  compound **x**, we must use a conversion factor to take into account the natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  which is 1.11%. Therefore, the C=O peak for compound **y** will be magnified by a factor of 100/1.11. For all other C signals, **x** + **y** will simply equal the integral of that peak.

**Measured ratio 75:25  $\text{NaH}^{12}\text{CO}_3$ : $\text{NaH}^{13}\text{CO}_3$**

Entry 2, Table 4

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 68.2 ppm integral 1.0000  
Integration factor = 3.6904

- 1)  $x + y = 1.0000$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.6904$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0000 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1 - x)/1.11) = 26.9960$ , becomes
- 4)  $90.0901 - 89.0901x = 26.9960$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 63.0941$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.7082$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0000$ ;  $x = 0.7082$  and  $y = 0.2918$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 70.8\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 29.2\%$

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Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 54.57 ppm integral 0.7842

Integration factor = 2.6110

- 1)  $x + y = 0.7842$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 2.6110$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.7842 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(0.7842 - x)/1.11) = 19.1000$ , becomes
- 4)  $70.6486 - 89.0901x = 19.1000$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 51.5487$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.5786$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.7842$ ,  $x = 0.5786$  and  $y = 0.2056$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 73.8\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 26.2\%$

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Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 31.3 ppm integral 1.0952  
Integration factor = 3.5564

- 1)  $x + y = 1.0952$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.5564$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0952 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1.0952 - x)/1.11) = 26.0158$ , becomes
- 4)  $98.6667 - 89.0901x = 26.0158$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 72.6509$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.815$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0952$ ;  $x = 0.8155$  and  $y = 0.2797$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 74.5\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 25.5\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 28.6 ppm integral 1.0263  
Integration factor = 3.5026

- 1)  $x + y = 1.0263$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.5026$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0263 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1.0263 - x)/1.11) = 25.6222$ , becomes
- 4)  $92.4595 - 89.0901x = 25.6222$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 66.8372$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.7502$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0263$ ;  $x = 0.7502$  and  $y = 0.2761$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 73.1\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 26.9\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 25.3 ppm integral 1.1055  
Integration factor = 3.4658

- 1)  $x + y = 1.1055$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.4658$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.1055 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1.1055 - x)/1.11) = 25.3530$ , becomes
- 4)  $99.5946 - 89.0901x = 25.3530$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 74.2416$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.8333$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.1055$ ;  $x = 0.8333$  and  $y = 0.2722$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 75.4\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 24.6\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 22.5 ppm integral 1.1190  
Integration factor = 3.3807

- 1)  $x + y = 1.1190$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.3807$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.1190 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1.1190 - x)/1.11) = 24.7305$ , becomes
- 4)  $100.8108 - 89.0901x = 24.7305$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 76.0803$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.854$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.1190$ ;  $x = 0.8540$  and  $y = 0.2650$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 76.3\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 23.7\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 7.3152 with 13.9 ppm integral 1.1059  
Integration factor = 3.4515

- 1)  $x + y = 1.1059$
- 2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 7.3152 \times 3.4515$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.1059 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

- 3)  $x + (100(1.1059 - x)/1.11) = 25.2484$ , becomes
- 4)  $99.6306 - 89.0901x = 25.2484$ , becomes
- 5)  $89.0901x = 74.3822$ ,
- 6)  $x = 0.8349$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.1059$ ;  $x = 0.8349$  and  $y = 0.2710$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 75.5\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 24.5\%$

---

Average of the 7 peaks and using population Standard deviation

$$\frac{70.8 + 73.8 + 74.5 + 73.1 + 75.4 + 76.3 + 75.5}{7} = \mathbf{74.2 \pm 1.7}$$

$$\mathbf{\underline{\underline{^{12}\text{C} = 74.2 \pm 1.7\% \text{ and } ^{13}\text{C} = 25.8 \pm 1.7\%}}}}$$

**Measured ratio 50:50 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Entry 3, Table 4

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 68.2 ppm integral 1.0000

Integration factor = 3.6904

1)  $x + y = 1.0000$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.6904$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0000 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(1 - x)/1.11) = 45.9211$ , becomes

4)  $90.0901 - 89.0901x = 45.9211$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 44.1690$ ,

6)  $x = 0.4958$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0000$ ;  $x = 0.4958$  and  $y = 0.5042$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 49.6\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 50.4\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 54.57 ppm integral 0.7342

Integration factor = 2.6110

1)  $x + y = 0.7342$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 2.6110$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.7342 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.7342 - x)/1.11) = 32.4897$ , becomes

4)  $66.1444 - 89.0901x = 32.4897$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 33.6544$ ,

6)  $x = 0.3778$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.7342$ ,  $x = 0.3778$  and  $y = 0.3564$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 51.5\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 48.5\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 31.3 ppm integral 0.9691

Integration factor = 3.5564

1)  $x + y = 0.9691$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.5564$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9691 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9691 - x)/1.11) = 44.2537$ , becomes

4)  $87.3063 - 89.0901x = 44.2537$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 43.0526$ ,

6)  $x = 0.4832$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9691$ ;  $x = 0.4832$  and  $y = 0.4859$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 49.9\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 50.1\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 28.6 ppm integral 0.9806

Integration factor = 3.5026

1)  $x + y = 0.9806$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.5026$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9806 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9806 - x)/1.11) = 43.5843$ , becomes

4)  $88.3423 - 89.0901x = 43.5843$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 44.7581$ ,

6)  $x = 0.5024$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9806$ ;  $x = 0.5024$  and  $y = 0.4782$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 51.2\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 48.8\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 25.3 ppm integral 0.9815

Integration factor = 3.4658

1)  $x + y = 0.9815$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.4658$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9815 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9815 - x)/1.11) = 43.1263$ , becomes

4)  $88.4234 - 89.0901x = 43.1263$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 45.2971$ ,

6)  $x = 0.5084$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9815$ ;  $x = 0.5084$  and  $y = 0.4731$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 51.8\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 48.2\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 22.5 ppm integral 0.9319

Integration factor = 3.3807

1)  $x + y = 0.9319$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.3807$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9319 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9319 - x)/1.11) = 42.0674$ , becomes

4)  $83.9550 - 89.0901x = 42.0674$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 41.8876$ ,

6)  $x = 0.4702$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9319$ ;  $x = 0.4702$  and  $y = 0.4617$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 50.5\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 49.5\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 12.4434 with 13.9 ppm integral 0.9093

Integration factor = 3.4515

1)  $x + y = 0.9093$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 12.4434 \times 3.4515$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9093 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9093 - x)/1.11) = 42.9484$ , becomes

4)  $81.9189 - 89.0901x = 42.9484$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 38.9705$ ,

6)  $x = 0.4374$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9093$ ;  $x = 0.4374$  and  $y = 0.4719$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 48.1\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 51.9\%$

---

Average of the 7 peaks and using population Standard deviation

$$\frac{49.6 + 51.5 + 49.9 + 51.2 + 51.8 + 50.5 + 48.1}{7} = \mathbf{50.4 \pm 1.2}$$

**$^{12}\text{C} = 50.4 \pm 1.2\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 49.6 \pm 1.2\%$**

**Measured ratio 25:75 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Entry 4, Table 4

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 68.2 ppm integral 1.0000

Integration factor = 3.6904

1)  $x + y = 1.0000$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.6904$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0000 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(1 - x)/1.11) = 68.7599$ , becomes

4)  $90.0901 - 89.0901x = 68.7599$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 21.3302$ ,

6)  $x = 0.2394$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0000$ ;  $x = 0.2394$  and  $y = 0.7606$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 23.9\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 76.1\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 54.57 ppm integral 0.7383

Integration factor = 2.6110

1)  $x + y = 0.7383$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 2.6110$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.7383 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.7383 - x)/1.11) = 48.6484$ , becomes

4)  $66.5135 - 89.0901x = 48.6484$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 17.8651$ ,

6)  $x = 0.2005$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.7383$ ,  $x = 0.2005$  and  $y = 0.5378$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 27.2\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 72.8\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 31.3 ppm integral 1.0349

Integration factor = 3.5564

1)  $x + y = 1.0349$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.5564$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0349 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(1.0349 - x)/1.11) = 66.2632$ , becomes

4)  $93.2342 - 89.0901x = 66.2632$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 26.9710$ ,

6)  $x = 0.3027$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0349$ ;  $x = 0.3027$  and  $y = 0.7322$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 29.3\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 70.7\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 28.6 ppm integral 1.0615

Integration factor = 3.5026

1)  $x + y = 1.0615$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.5026$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0615 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(1.0615 - x)/1.11) = 65.2608$ , becomes

4)  $95.6306 - 89.0901x = 65.2608$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 30.3698$ ,

6)  $x = 0.3409$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0615$ ;  $x = 0.3409$  and  $y = 0.7206$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 32.1\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 67.9\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 25.3 ppm integral 0.9964

Integration factor = 3.4658

1)  $x + y = 0.9964$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.4658$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9964 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9964 - x)/1.11) = 64.5751$ , becomes

4)  $89.7658 - 89.0901x = 64.5751$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 25.1906$ ,

6)  $x = 0.2828$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9964$ ;  $x = 0.2828$  and  $y = 0.7136$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 28.4\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 71.6\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 22.5 ppm integral 0.9716

Integration factor = 3.3807

1)  $x + y = 0.9716$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.3807$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9716 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9716 - x)/1.11) = 62.9895$ , becomes

4)  $87.5315 - 89.0901x = 62.9895$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 24.5420$ ,

6)  $x = 0.2755$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9716$ ;  $x = 0.2755$  and  $y = 0.6961$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 28.4\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 71.6\%$

---



Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 18.6321 with 13.9 ppm integral 0.9741

Integration factor = 3.4515

1)  $x + y = 0.9741$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 18.6321 \times 3.4515$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9741 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9741 - x)/1.11) = 64.3087$ , becomes

4)  $87.7568 - 89.0901x = 64.3087$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 23.4481$ ,

6)  $x = 0.2632$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9741$ ;  $x = 0.2632$  and  $y = 0.7109$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 27.0\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 73.0\%$

---

Average of the 7 peaks and using population Standard deviation

$$\frac{23.9 + 27.2 + 29.3 + 32.1 + 28.4 + 28.4 + 27.0}{7} = \mathbf{28.0 \pm 2.3}$$

$^{12}\text{C} = 28.0 \pm 2.3\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 72.0 \pm 2.3\%$

**Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Entry 4, Table 4

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 68.2 ppm integral 1.0000

Integration factor = 3.6904

1)  $x + y = 1.0000$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.6904$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 1.0000 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(1 - x)/1.11) = 88.5309$ , becomes

4)  $90.0901 - 89.0901x = 88.5309$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 1.5592$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0175$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 1.0000$ ;  $x = 0.0175$  and  $y = 0.9825$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 1.75\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 98.25\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 54.5 ppm integral 0.7221

Integration factor = 2.6110

1)  $x + y = 0.7221$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 2.6110$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.7221 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.7221 - x)/1.11) = 62.6366$ , becomes

4)  $66.0541 - 89.0901x = 62.6366$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 2.4175$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0271$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.7221$ ,  $x = 0.0271$  and  $y = 0.6950$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 3.8\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 96.2\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 31.3 ppm integral 0.9621

Integration factor = 3.5564

1)  $x + y = 0.9621$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.5564$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9621 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9621 - x)/1.11) = 85.3163$ , becomes

4)  $86.6757 - 89.0901x = 85.3163$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 1.3594$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0153$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9621$ ;  $x = 0.0153$  and  $y = 0.9468$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 1.6\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 98.4\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 28.6 ppm integral 0.9770

Integration factor = 3.5026

1)  $x + y = 0.9770$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.5026$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9770 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9770 - x)/1.11) = 84.0256$ , becomes

4)  $88.0180 - 89.0901x = 84.0256$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 3.9924$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0448$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9770$ ;  $x = 0.0448$  and  $y = 0.9322$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 4.6\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 95.4\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 25.3 ppm integral 0.9535

Integration factor = 3.4658

1)  $x + y = 0.9535$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.4658$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9535 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9535 - x)/1.11) = 83.1428$ , becomes

4)  $85.9009 - 89.0901x = 83.1428$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 2.7581$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0310$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9535$ ;  $x = 0.0310$  and  $y = 0.9225$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 3.2\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 96.8\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 22.4 ppm integral 0.9107

Integration factor = 3.3807

1)  $x + y = 0.9107$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.3807$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9107 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9107 - x)/1.11) = 81.1013$ , becomes

4)  $82.0450 - 89.0901x = 81.1013$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = 0.9437$ ,

6)  $x = 0.0106$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9107$ ;  $x = 0.0106$  and  $y = 0.9001$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = 1.2\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 98.8\%$

---

Comparison of C=O peak at 155.8 ppm integral 23.9895 with 13.9 ppm integral 0.9068

Integration factor = 3.4515

1)  $x + y = 0.9068$

2)  $x + (100y/1.11) = 23.9895 \times 3.4515$

Rearranging Eq. 1 to  $y = 0.9068 - x$  and substituting into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $x + (100(0.9068 - x)/1.11) = 82.7998$ , becomes

4)  $81.6937 - 89.0901x = 82.7998$ , becomes

5)  $89.0901x = -1.1061$ ,

6)  $x = -0.0124$

From Eq. 1,  $x + y = 0.9068$ ;  $x = -0.0124$  and  $y = 0.9192$ ,  $^{12}\text{C} = -1.4\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 101.4\%$

---

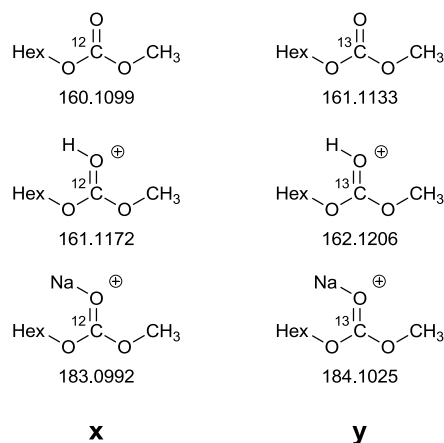
Average of the 7 peaks and using population Standard deviation

$$\frac{1.75 + 3.8 + 1.6 + 4.6 + 3.2 + 1.2 - 1.4}{7} = \mathbf{2.1 \pm 1.8}$$

$^{12}\text{C} = 2.1 \pm 1.8\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 97.9 \pm 1.8\%$

## Isotopic labelling experiments

### Determination of ratios by High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy



m/z of 100%  $^{12}\text{C}$  compound **x** shows the  $\text{MNa}^+$  ion at 183.1035 (39 090, 91.26%) and 184.1067 (3 746, 8.74%), due to natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  present in this compound. Using this background reading, the ratios of the mixtures are calculated below.

The proportion of the peak at 184.1 due to the natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  is (3 746/39 090) of the peak at 183.09.

**x** is the proportion of the integral corresponding to the  $^{12}\text{C}$  compound and **y** is the proportion of the integral corresponding to the  $^{13}\text{C}$  compound.

The table below shows the exact mass found and the integration of each peak corresponding to  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ .

Entry	Ratio $\text{NaH}^{12}\text{CO}_3:\text{NaH}^{13}\text{CO}_3$	$\text{MNa}^+$ $^{12}\text{C}$ ( <b>x</b> ) <sup>a</sup>	Integration	$\text{MNa}^+$ $^{13}\text{C}$ ( <b>y</b> ) <sup>a</sup>	Integration
1	100:0	183.1035	39090	184.1067	3746
2	75:25	183.0977	159796	184.1013	72738
3	50:50	183.1026	43599	184.1056	48240
4	25:75	183.0990	16043	184.1018	42118
5	0:100	183.0973	24203	184.1008	800762

<sup>a</sup> Source Type: ESI+

The calculations below show how the ratio of isotopes was determined using theses integrals to give the values quoted as Table 4 in the paper (and reproduced below)

Table 4. <sup>13</sup> C-labelled CO <sub>2</sub> experiments. <sup>a</sup>							
Entry	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	Measured ratio <sup>c</sup>		Observed ratio <sup>13</sup> C NMR <sup>d</sup>		Observed ratio HRMS <sup>e</sup>	
		<sup>12</sup> C	<sup>13</sup> C	<sup>12</sup> C	<sup>13</sup> C	<sup>12</sup> C	<sup>13</sup> C
1	63	100	0	100	0	100	0
2	68	75	25	74.2±1.7	25.8±1.7	73.6	26.4
3	68	50	50	50.4±1.2	49.6±1.2	49.7	50.3
4	70	25	75	28.0±2.3	72.0±2.3	28.3	71.7
5	60	0	100	2.1±1.8	97.9±1.8	2.9	97.1

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were performed by adding 3M HCl<sub>(aq)</sub> to NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5 equiv.) and passing the CO<sub>2</sub> gas generated through a rapidly stirred suspension of Hex-I (1 equiv.) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (1.2 equiv.) in MeOH. The reaction was then rapidly stirred at 40 °C for 4h. <sup>b</sup> Yield of **2d** after filtration and careful evaporation under reduced pressure. <sup>c</sup> Ratio of the NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (99% <sup>12</sup>C) and NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (99% <sup>13</sup>C). <sup>d</sup> Average of ratios obtained from a comparison of the C=O peak with each of the aliphatic carbon signals (seven calculations). <sup>e</sup> Ratio based on MNa<sup>+</sup> (ESI+). <sup>d</sup> and <sup>e</sup> see below for calculations.

### Measured ratio 75:25 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>

Entry 2, Table 4

MNa<sup>+</sup> 183.0977, integration 159 796 (is solely due to compound x)

MNa<sup>+</sup> 184.1013, integration 72 738 (is due to the natural abundance of <sup>13</sup>C in compound x plus compound y), therefore

1)  $x = 159\,796$

2)  $(3\,746/39\,090)x + y = 72\,738$

substituting Eq. 1 into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $(3\,746/39\,090) \times 159\,796 + y = 72\,738$ , becomes

4)  $y = 57\,424.728$

From Eq. 1  $x = 159\,796$  and Eq. 4  $y = 57\,424.728$ , <sup>12</sup>C = 73.6% and <sup>13</sup>C = 26.4%

### Measured ratio 50:50 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>

Entry 3, Table 4

MNa<sup>+</sup> 183.1026, integration 43 599 (is solely due to compound x)

MNa<sup>+</sup> 184.1056, integration 48 240 (is due to the natural abundance of <sup>13</sup>C in compound x plus compound y), therefore

1)  $x = 43\,599$

2)  $(3\,746/39\,090)x + y = 48\,240$

substituting Eq. 1 into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $(3\,746/39\,090) \times 43\,599 + y = 48\,240$ , becomes

4)  $y = 44\,061.902$

From Eq. 1  $x = 43\,599$  and Eq. 4  $y = 44\,061.902$ , <sup>12</sup>C = 49.7% and <sup>13</sup>C = 50.3%

**Measured ratio 25:75 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Entry 4, Table 4

MNa<sup>+</sup> 183.0990, integration 16 043 (is solely due to compound x)

MNa<sup>+</sup> 184.1018, integration 42 118 (is due to the natural abundance of <sup>13</sup>C in compound x plus compound y), therefore

1)  $x = 16\,043$

2)  $(3\,746/39\,090)x + y = 42\,118$

substituting Eq. 1 into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $(3\,746/39\,090) \times 16\,043 + y = 42\,118$ , becomes

4)  $y = 40\,580.597$

From Eq. 1  $x = 16\,043$  and Eq. 4  $y = 40\,580.597$ ,  **$^{12}\text{C} = 28.3\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 71.7\%$**

---

**Measured ratio 0:100 NaH<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>:NaH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub>**

Entry 5, Table 4

MNa<sup>+</sup> 183.0973, integration 24 203 (is solely due to compound x)

MNa<sup>+</sup> 184.1008, integration 800 762 (is due to the natural abundance of <sup>13</sup>C in compound x plus compound y), therefore

1)  $x = 24\,203$

2)  $(3\,746/39\,090)x + y = 800\,762$

substituting Eq. 1 into Eq. 2 gives:

3)  $(3\,746/39\,090) \times 24\,203 + y = 800\,762$ , becomes

4)  $y = 798\,442.623$

From Eq. 1  $x = 24\,203$  and Eq. 4  $y = 798\,442.623$ ,  **$^{12}\text{C} = 2.9\%$  and  $^{13}\text{C} = 97.1\%$**

# <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra from optimisation study, Table 3, Entry 1

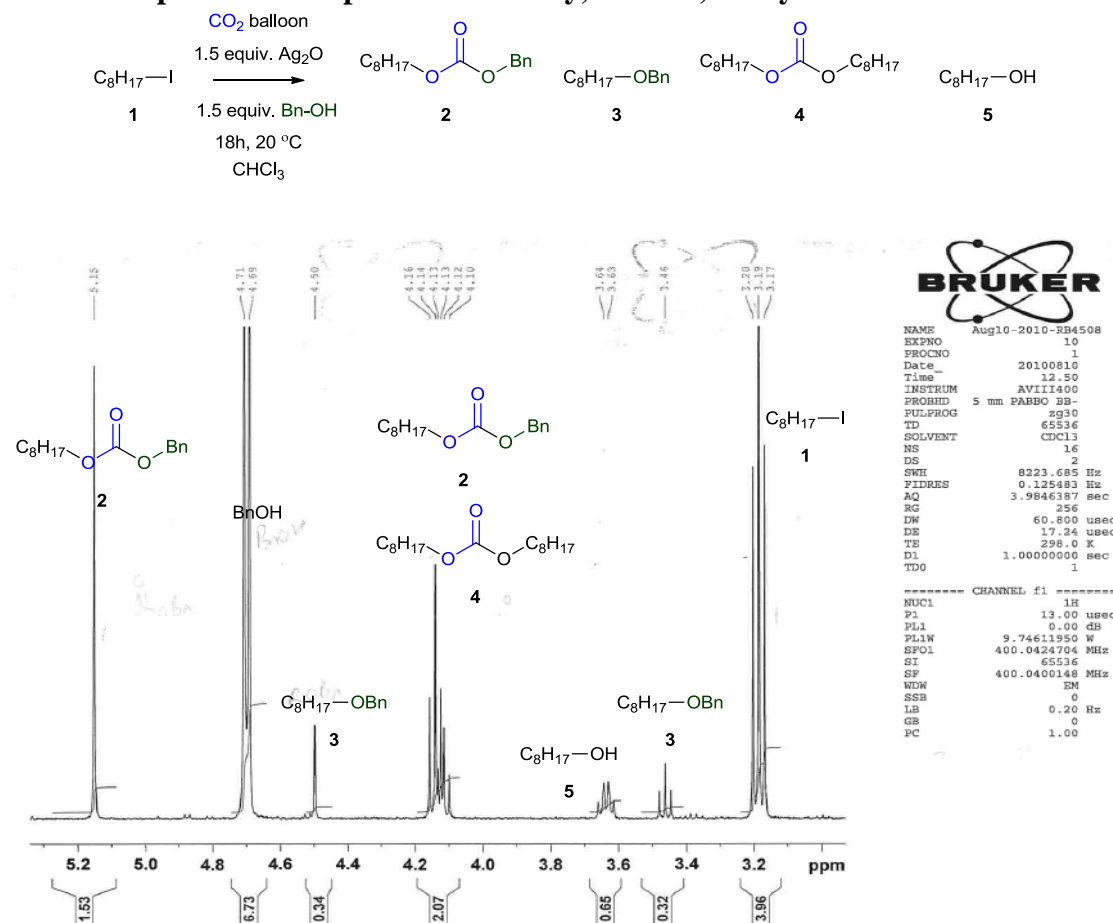
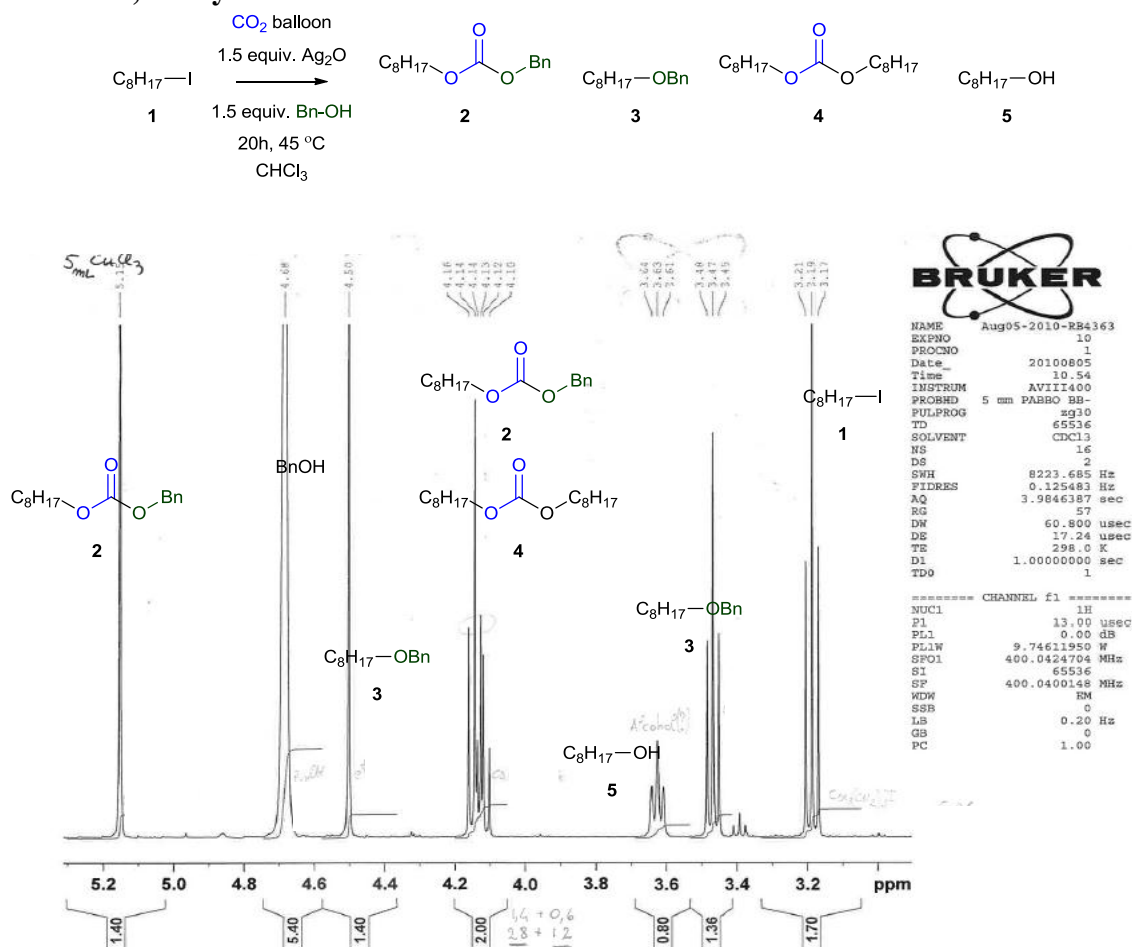
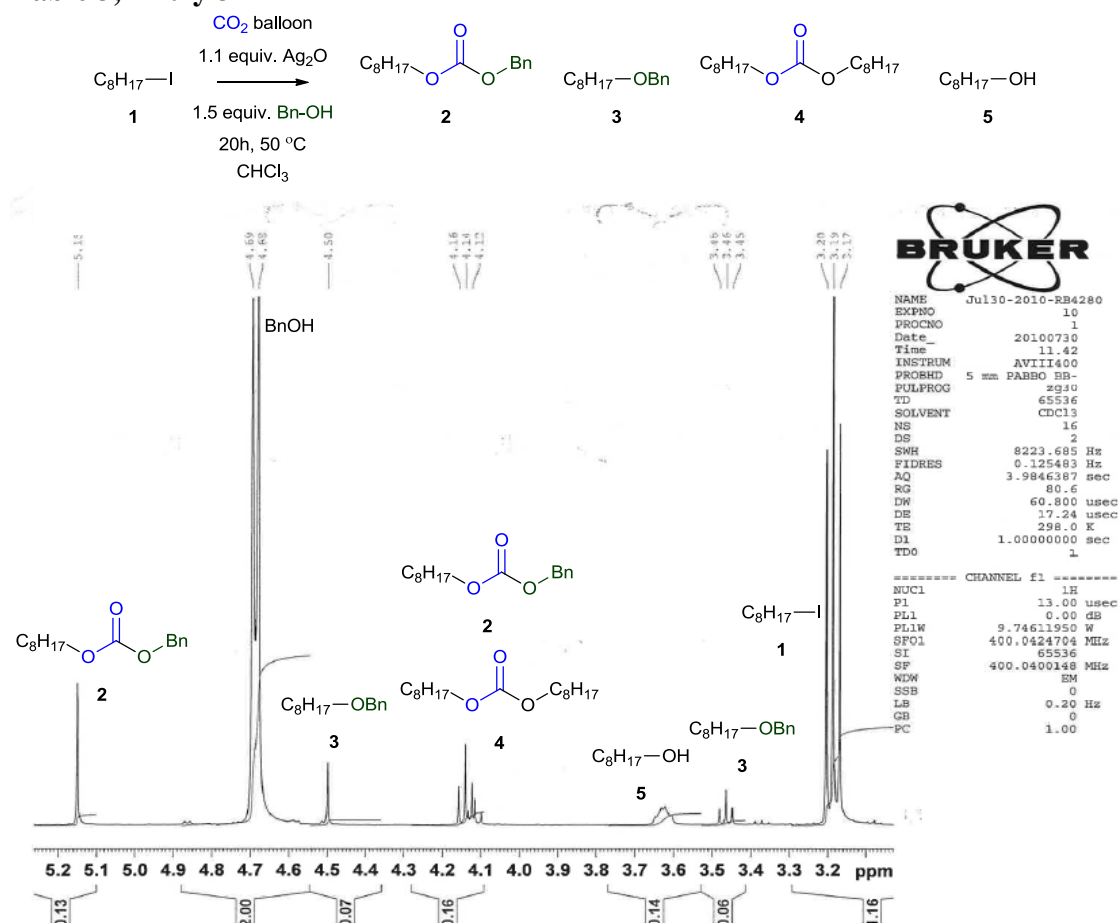


Table 3, Entry 2

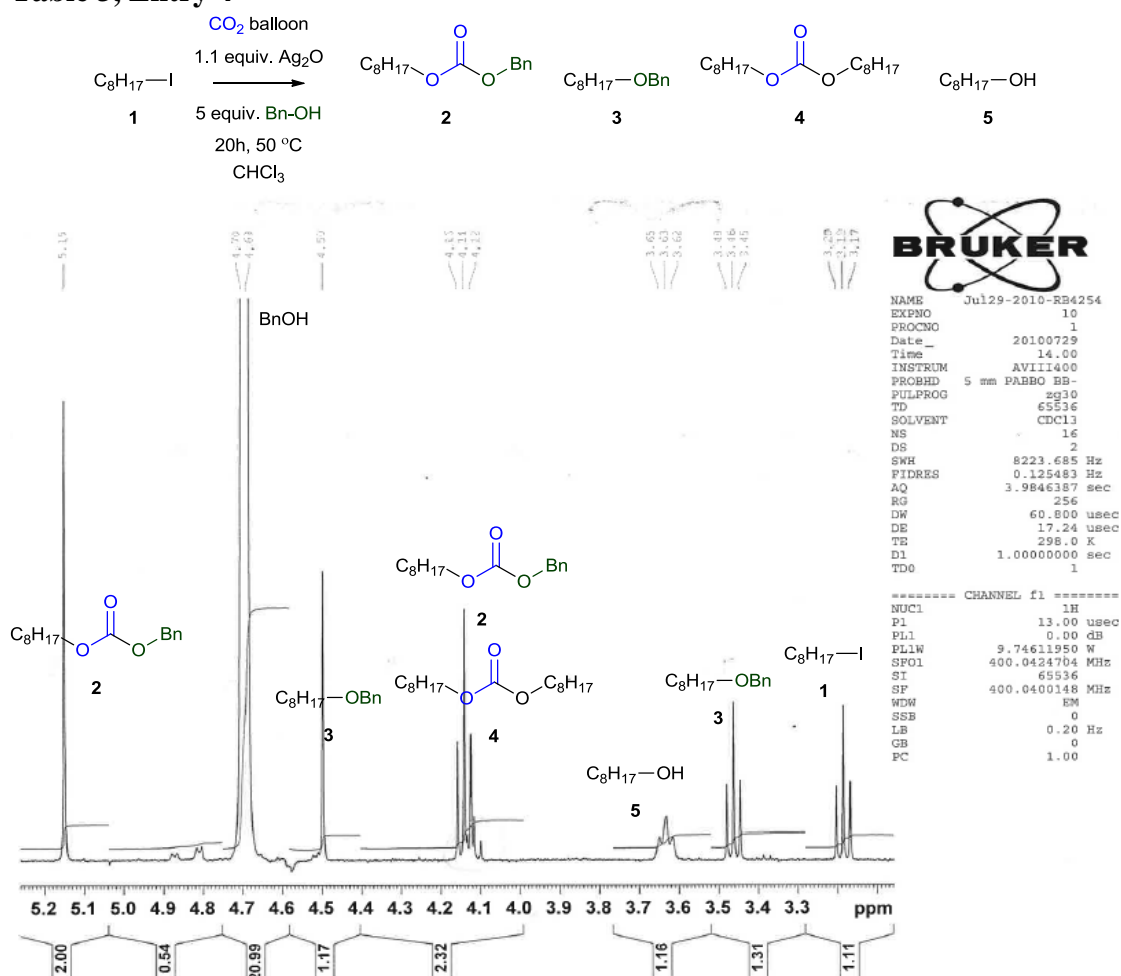




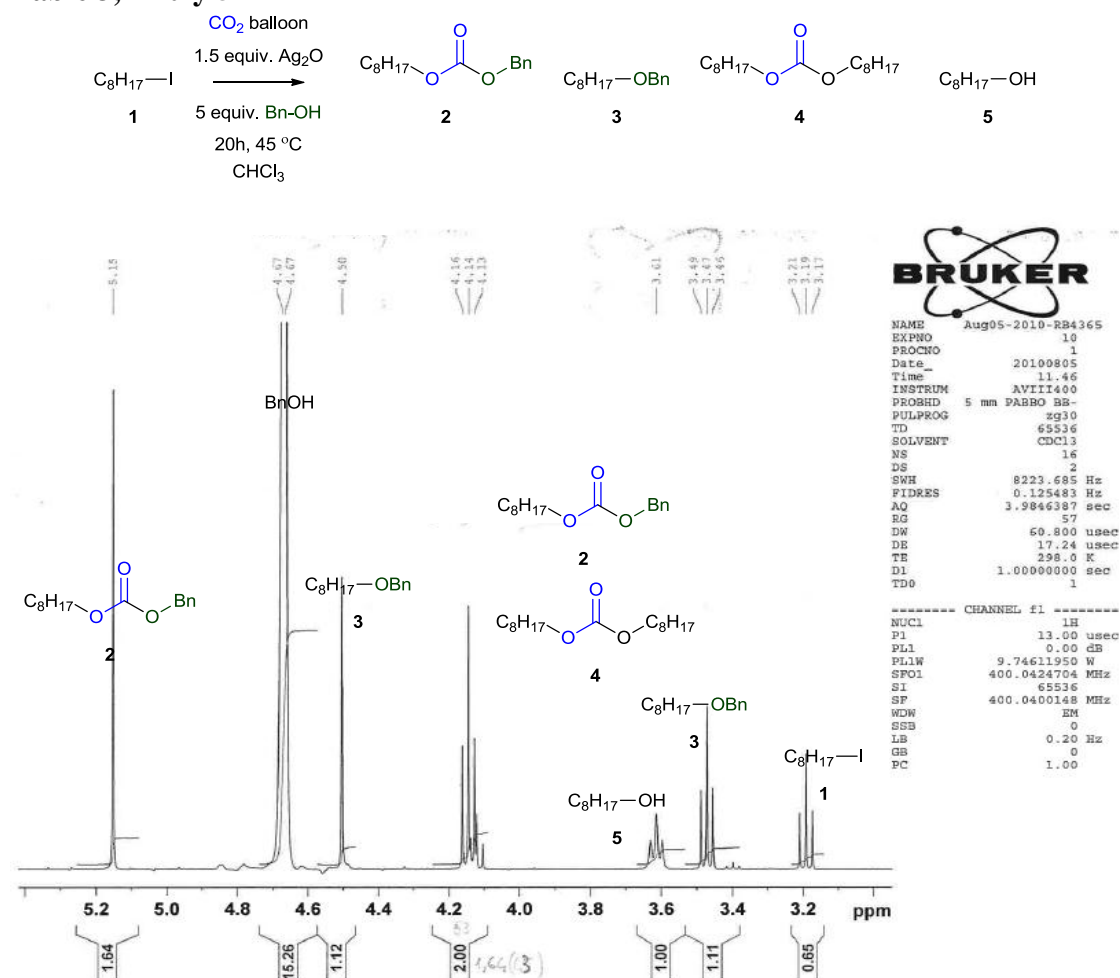
**Table 3, Entry 3**



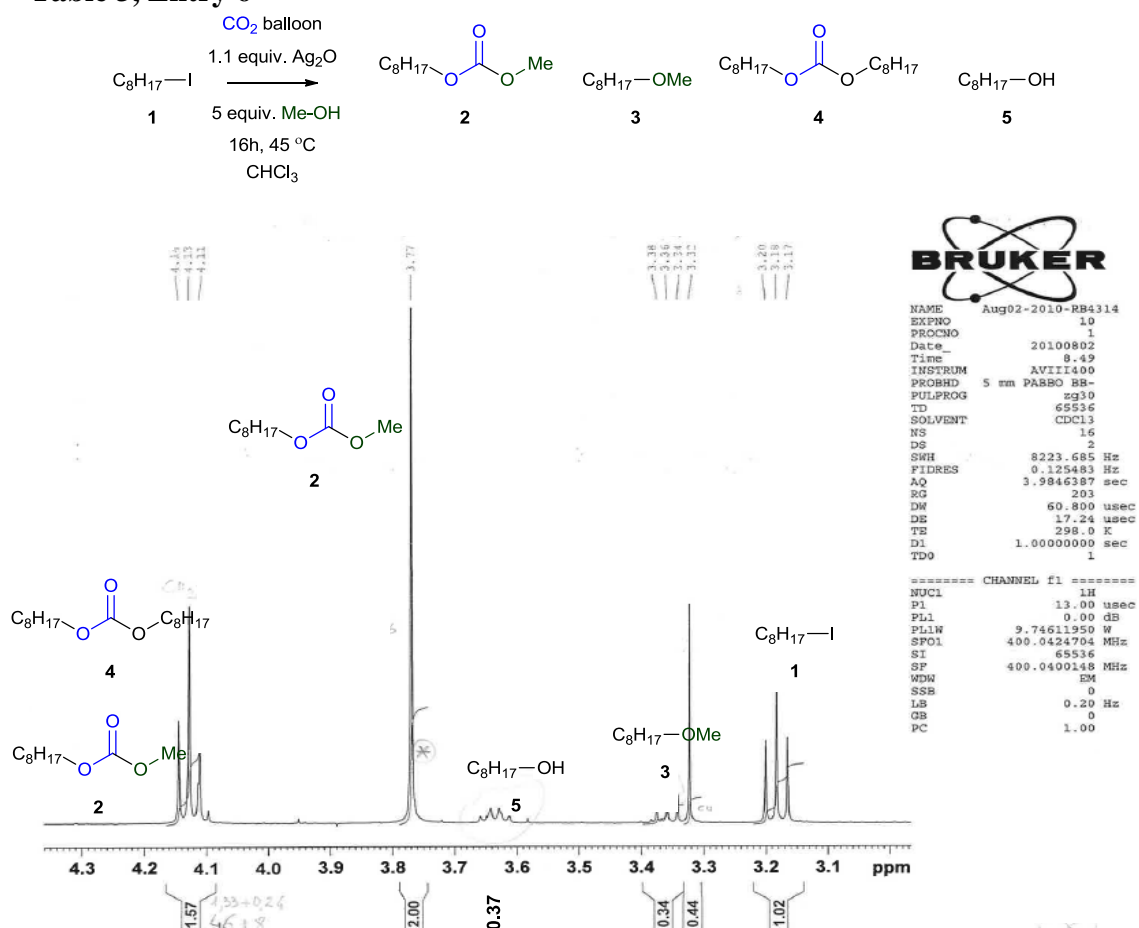
**Table 3, Entry 4**



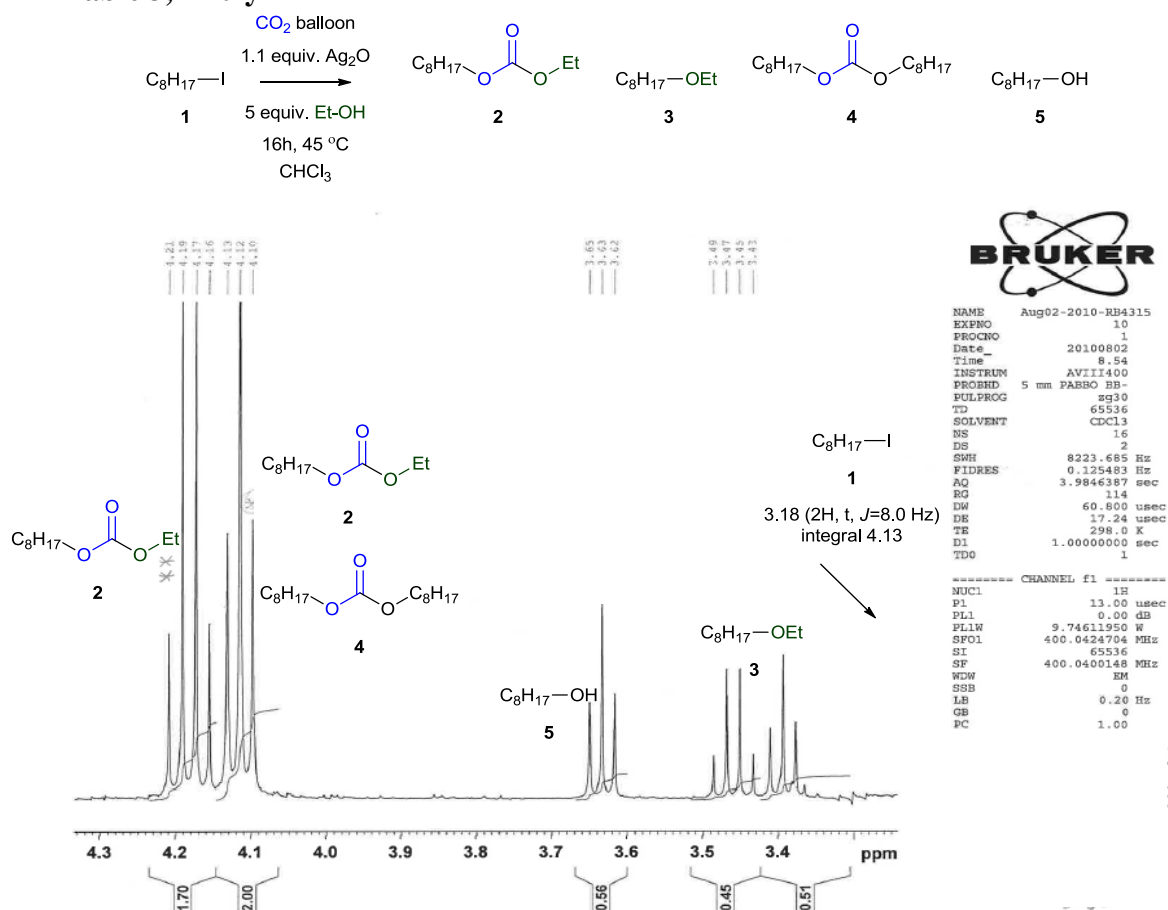
**Table 3, Entry 5**



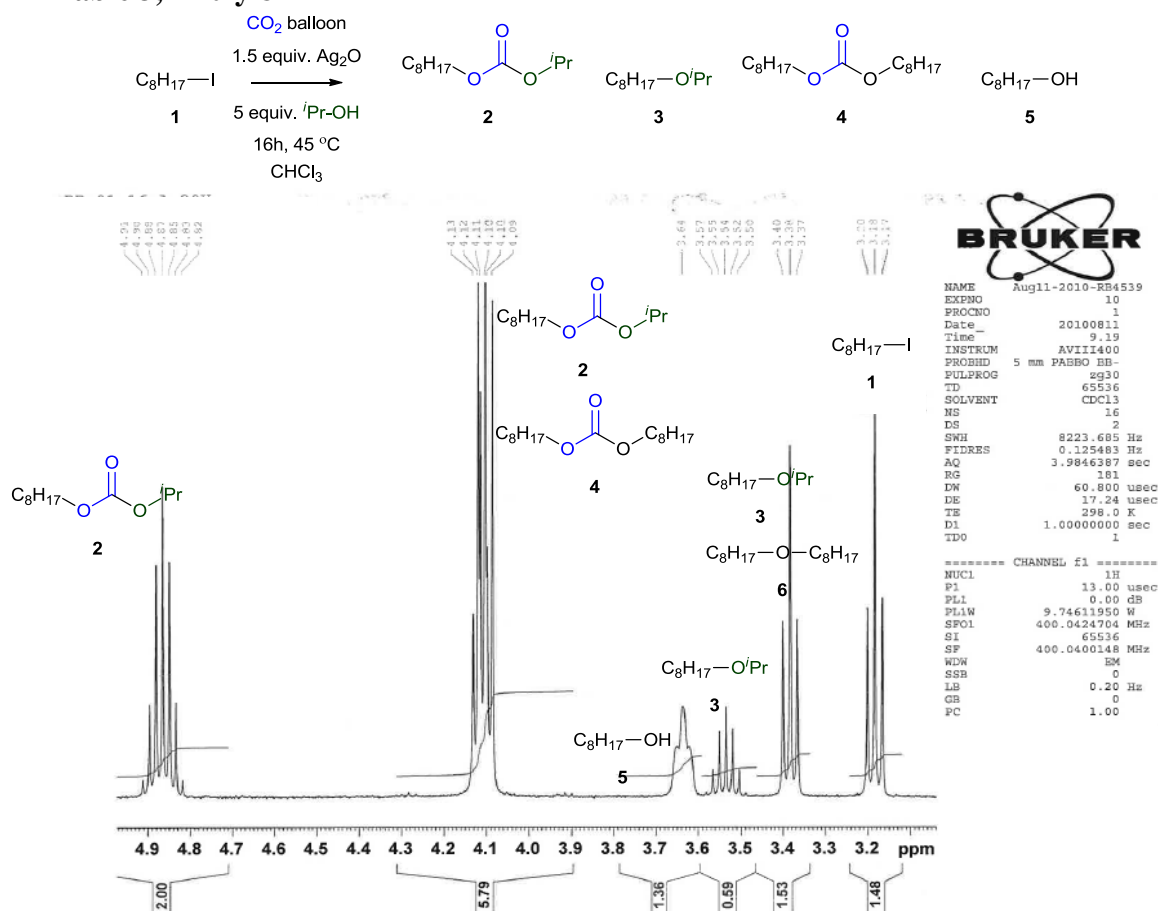
**Table 3, Entry 6**



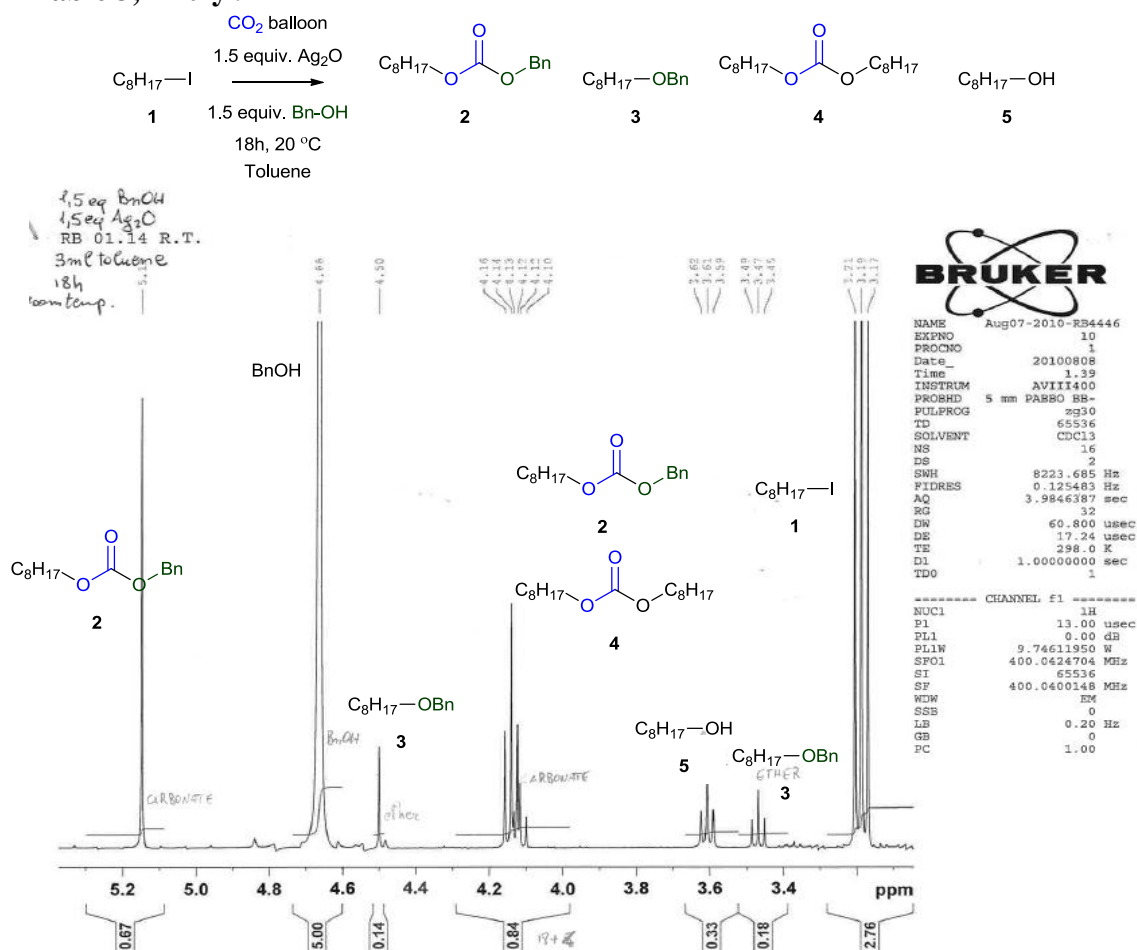
**Table 3, Entry 7**



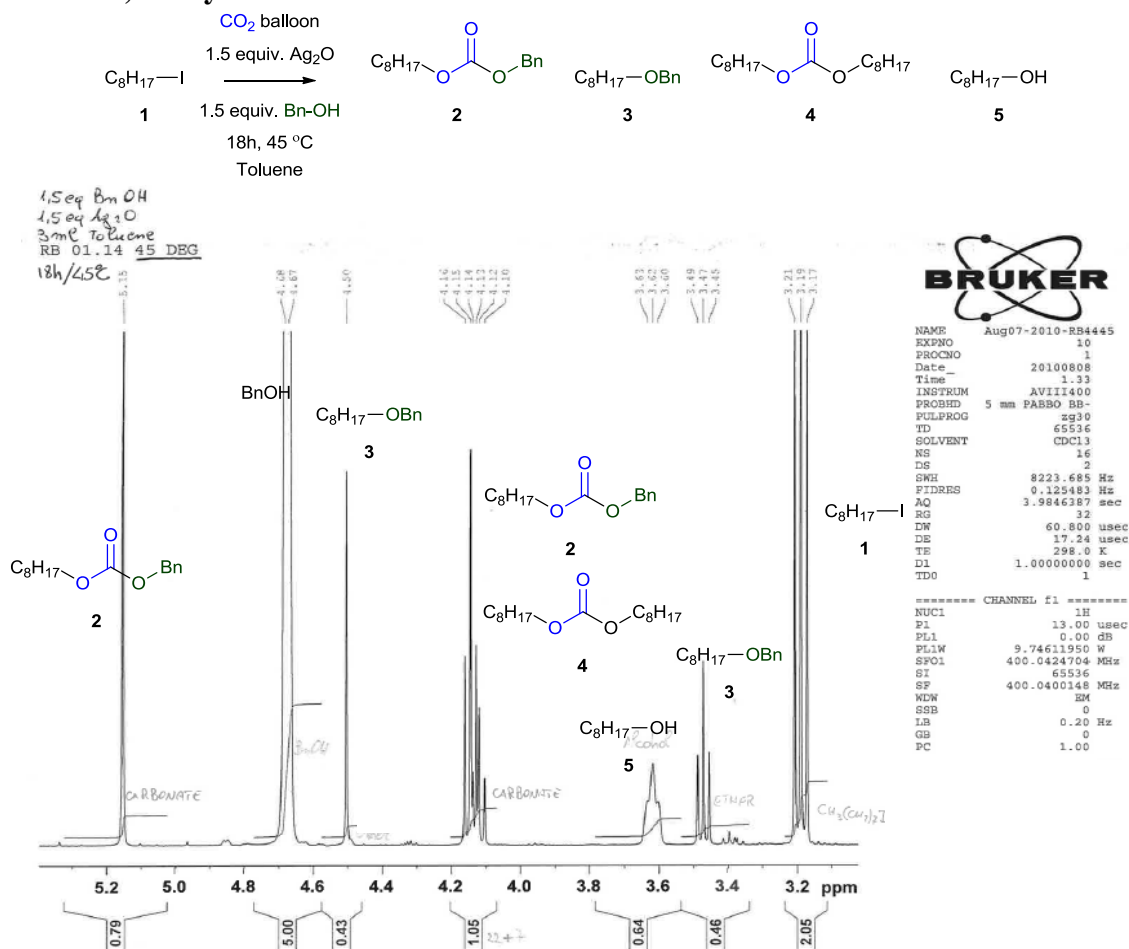
**Table 3, Entry 8**



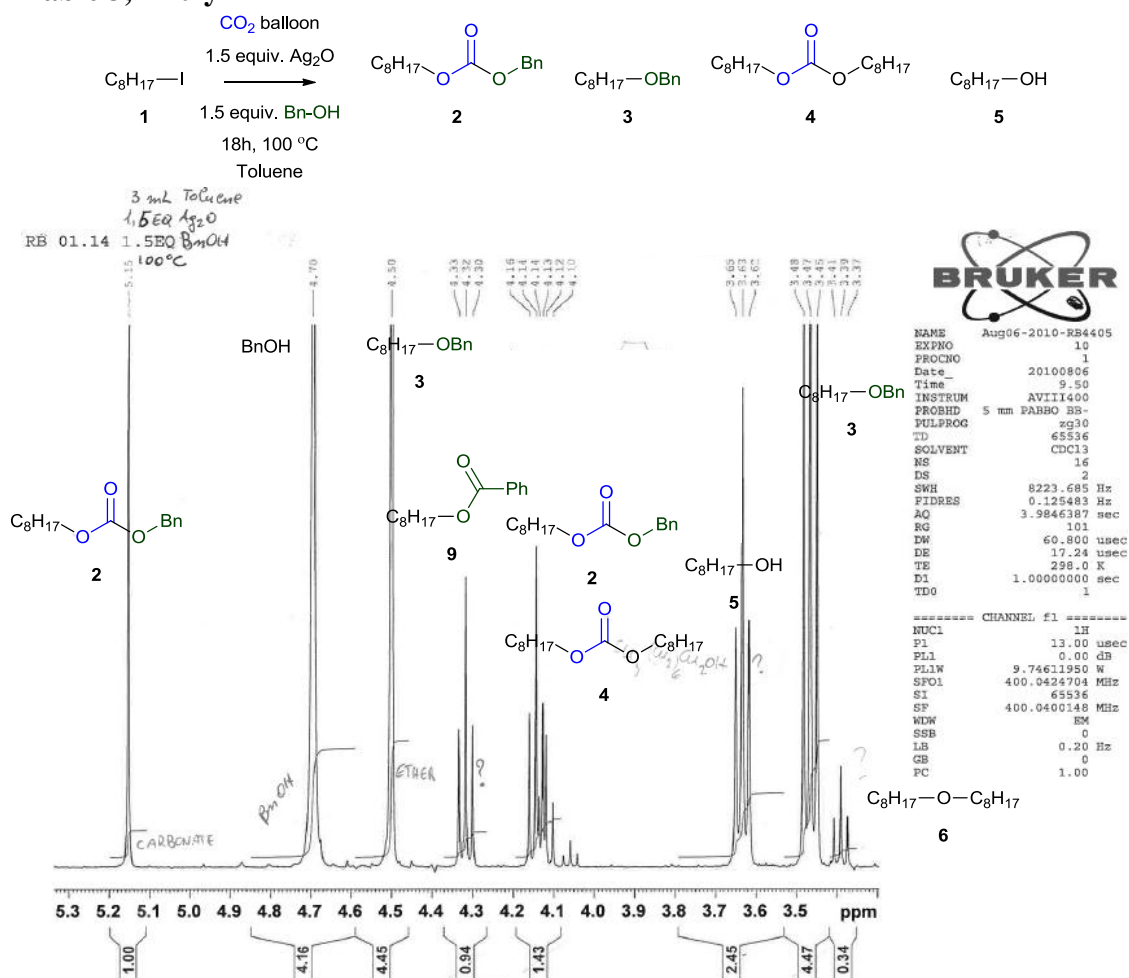
**Table 3, Entry 9**



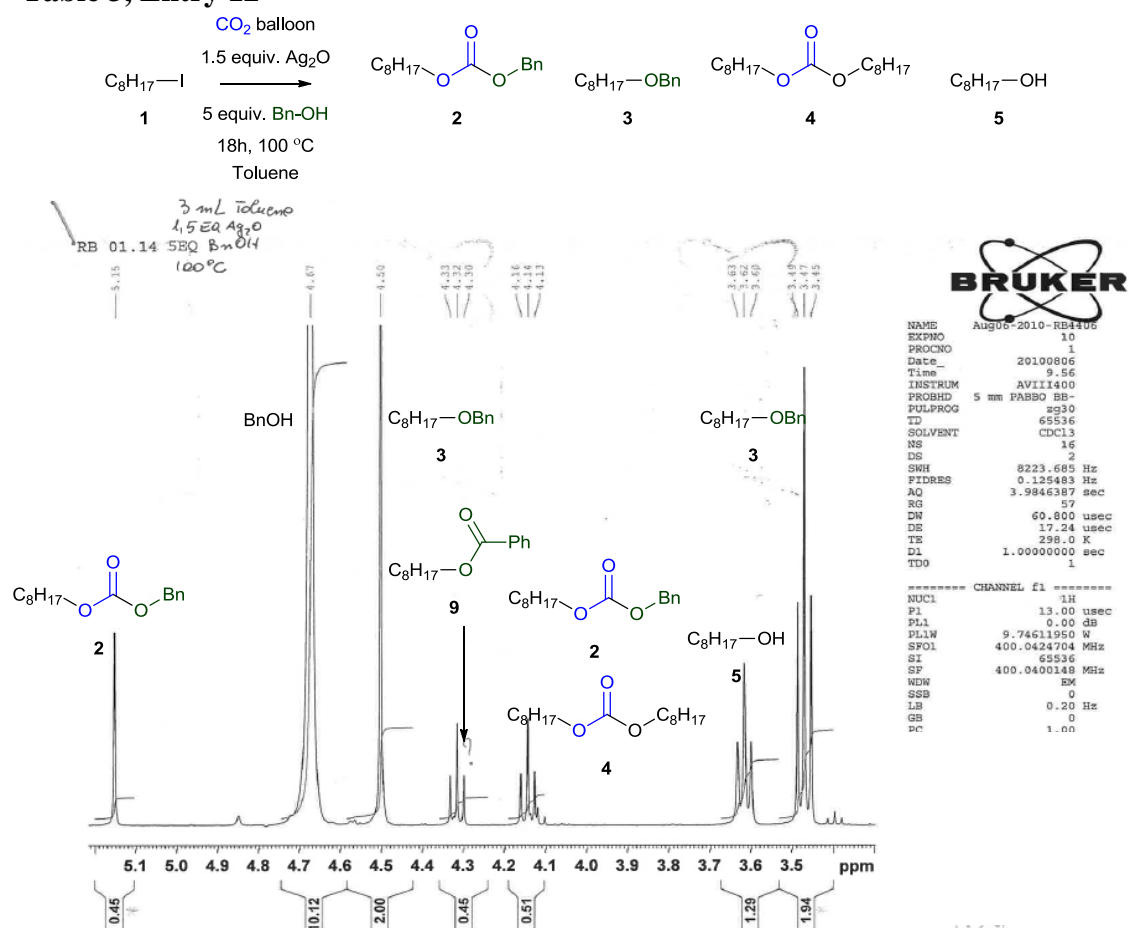
**Table 3, Entry 10**



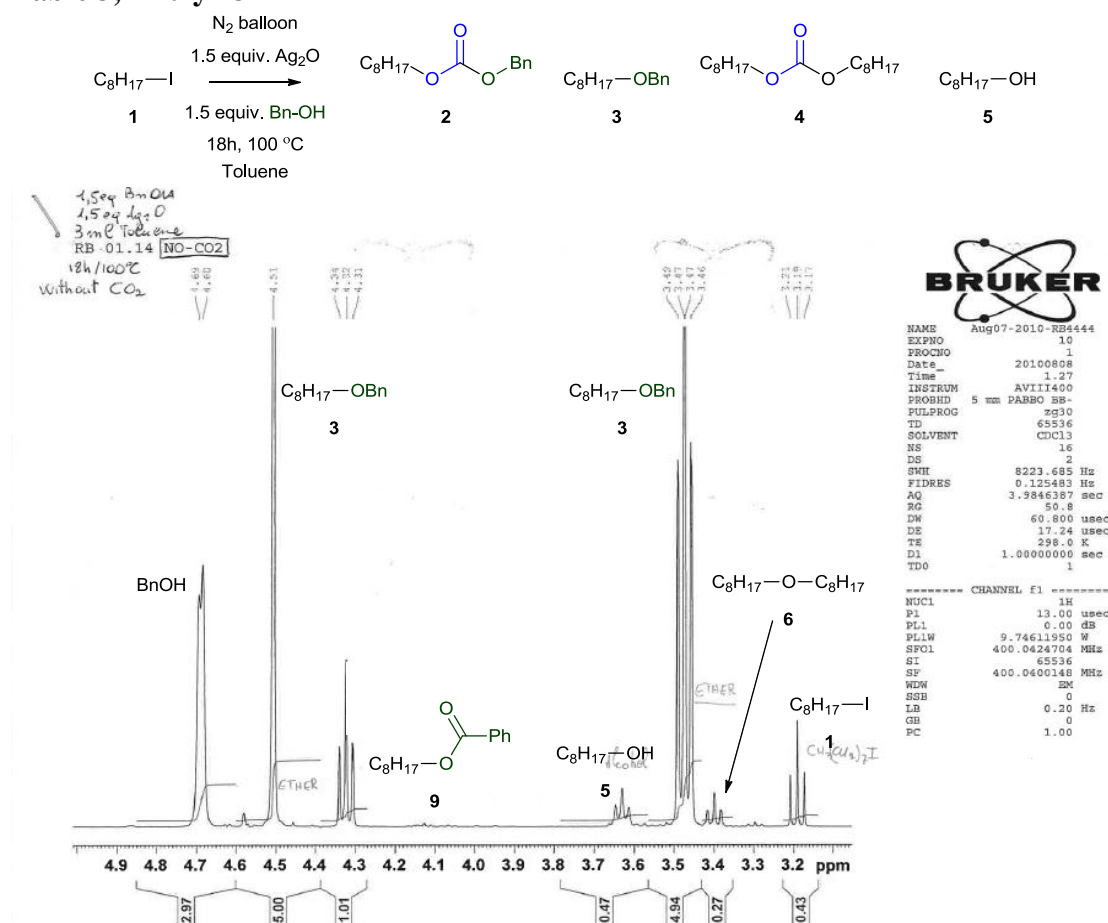
**Table 3, Entry 11**



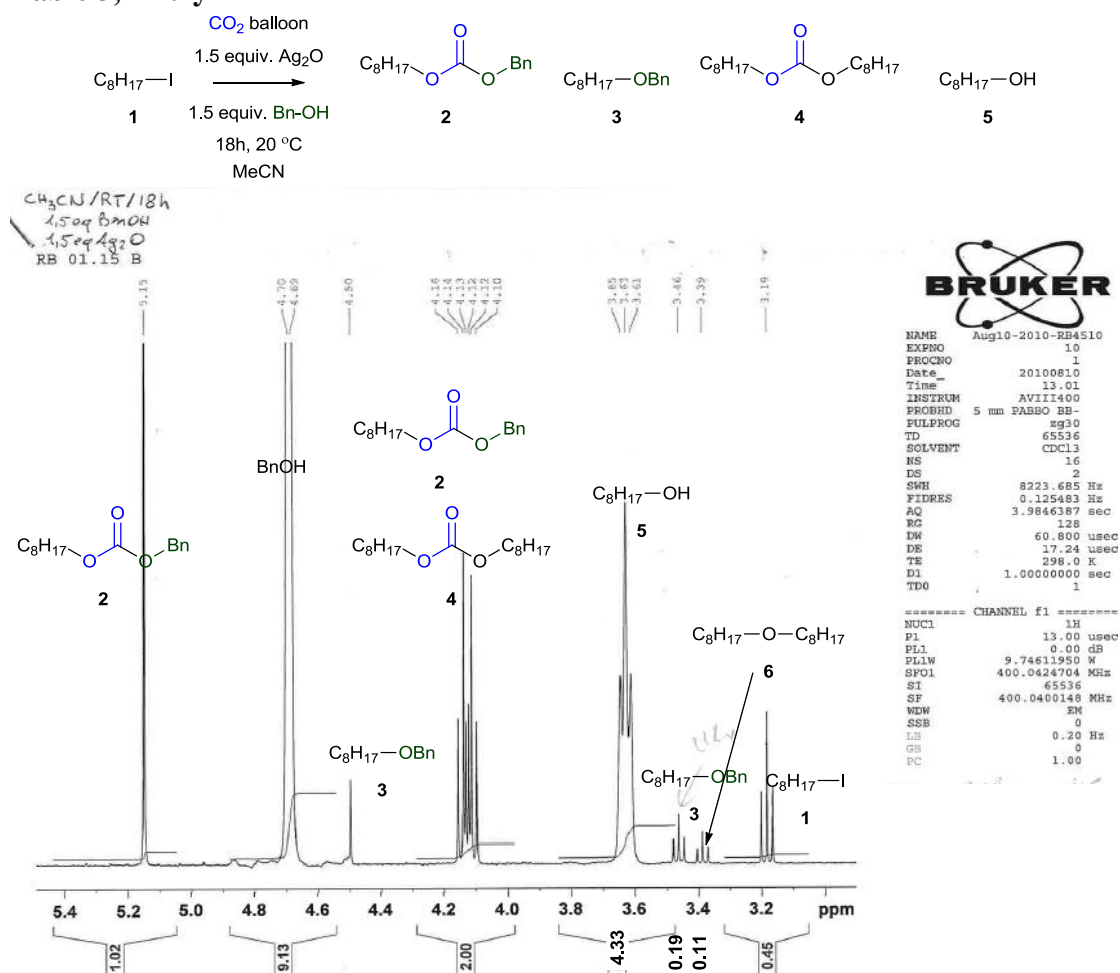
**Table 3, Entry 12**



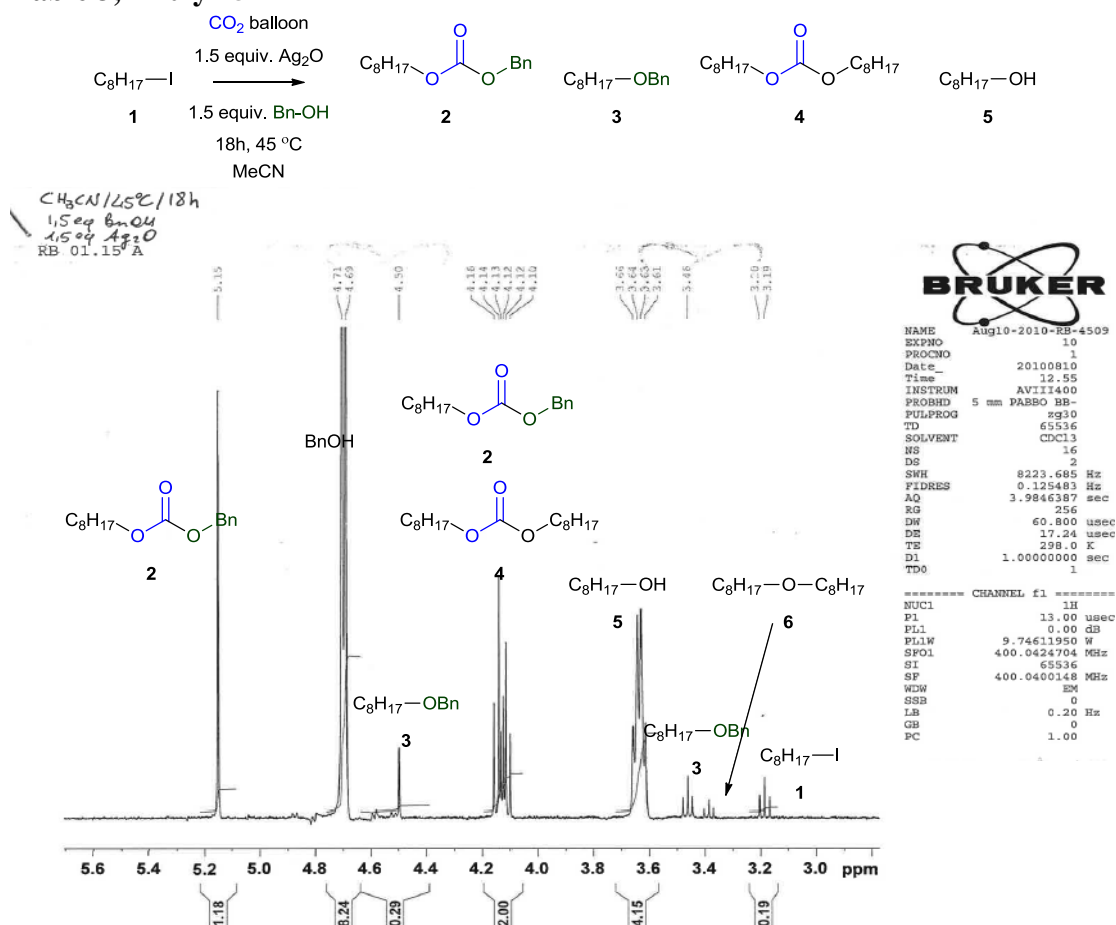
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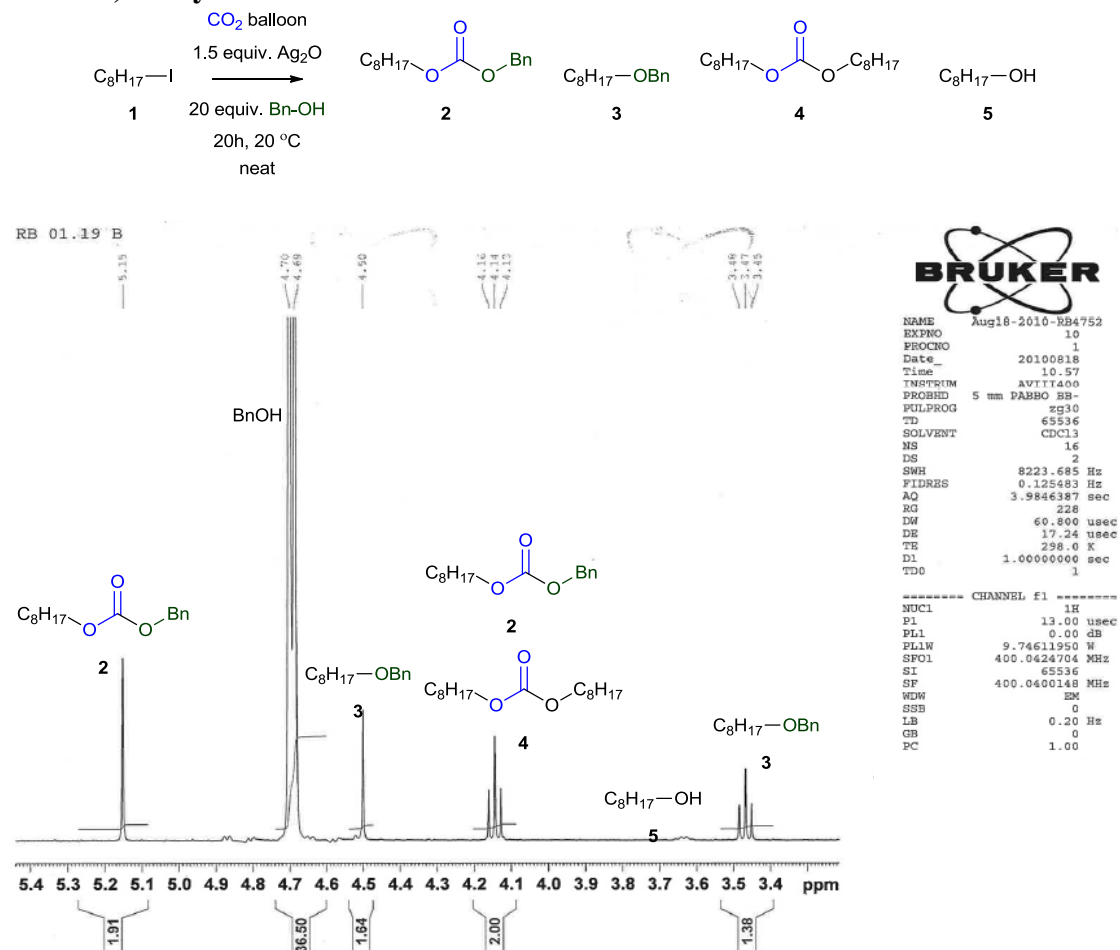
**Table 3, Entry 14**



**Table 3, Entry 15**

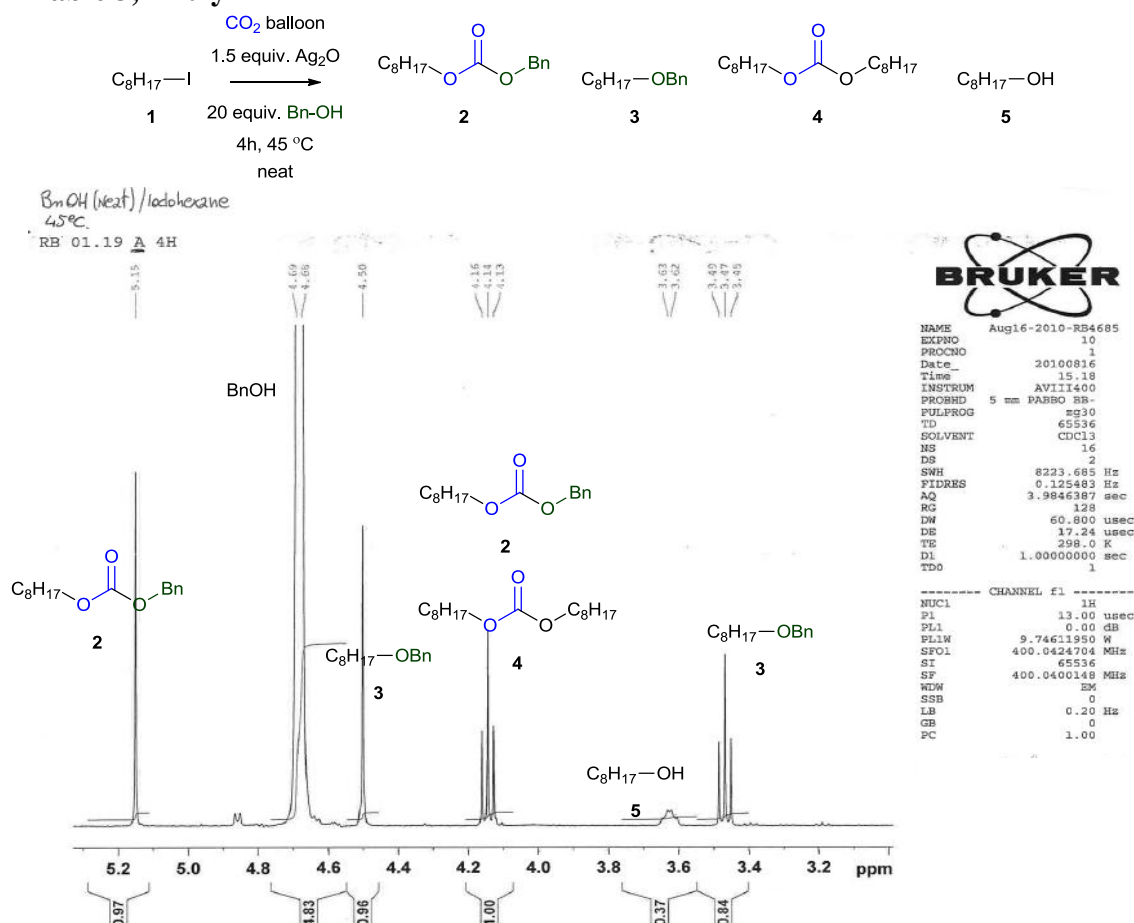


**Table 3, Entry 16**

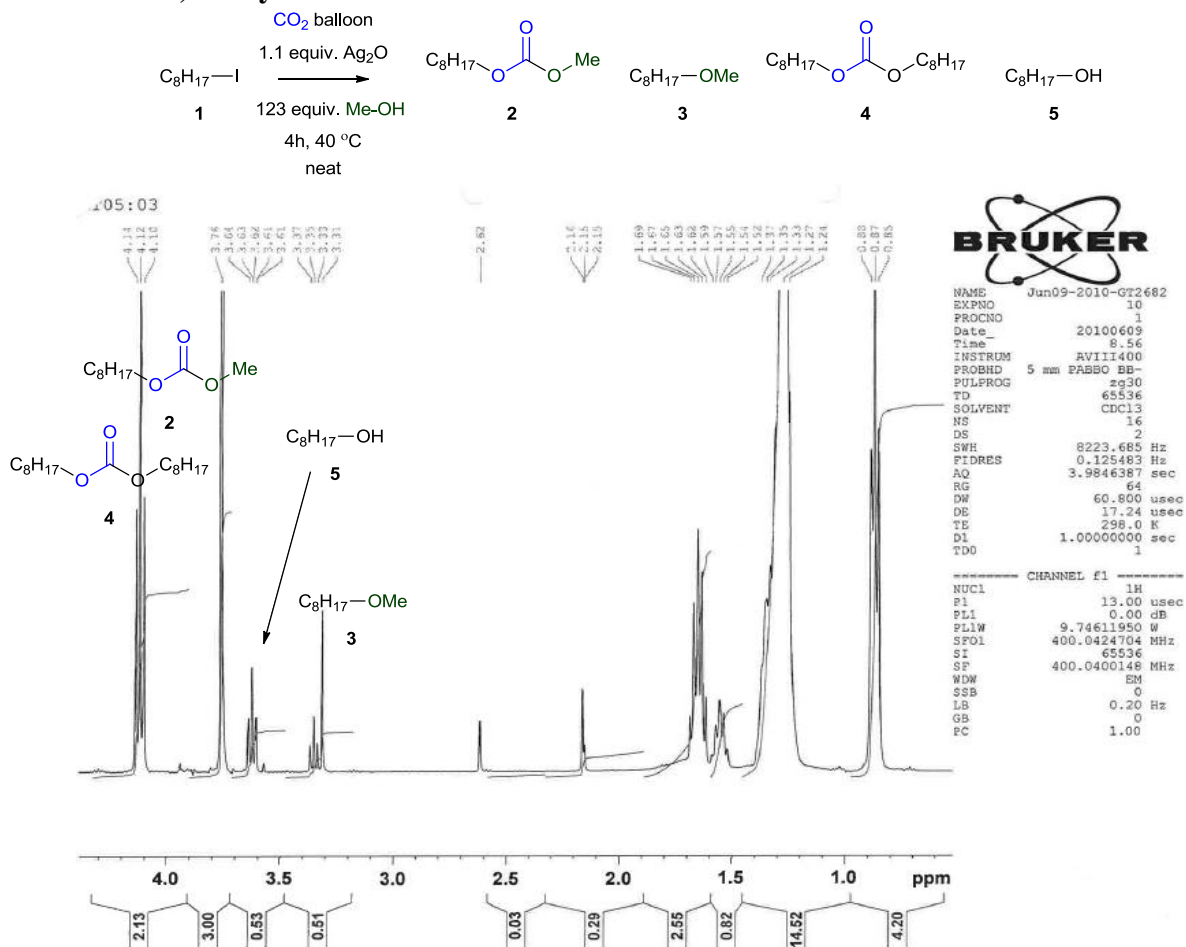




**Table 3, Entry 17**

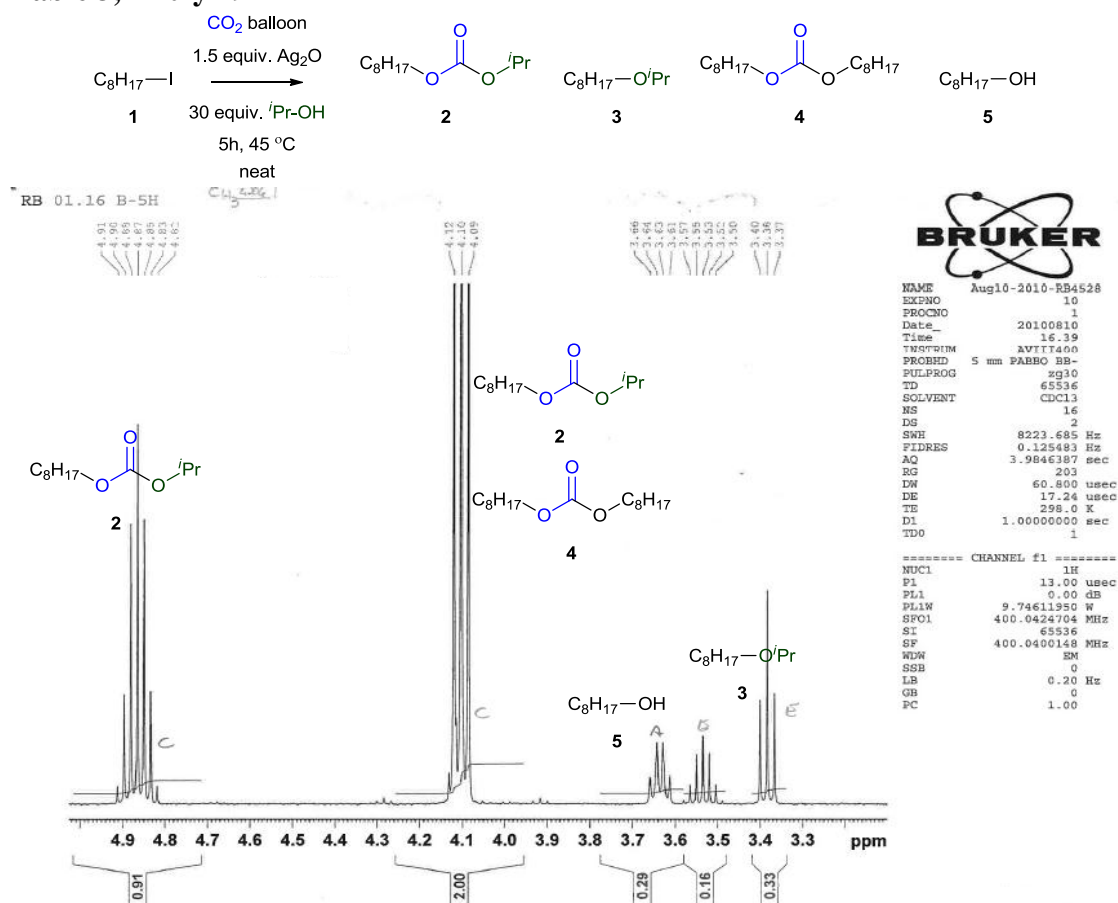


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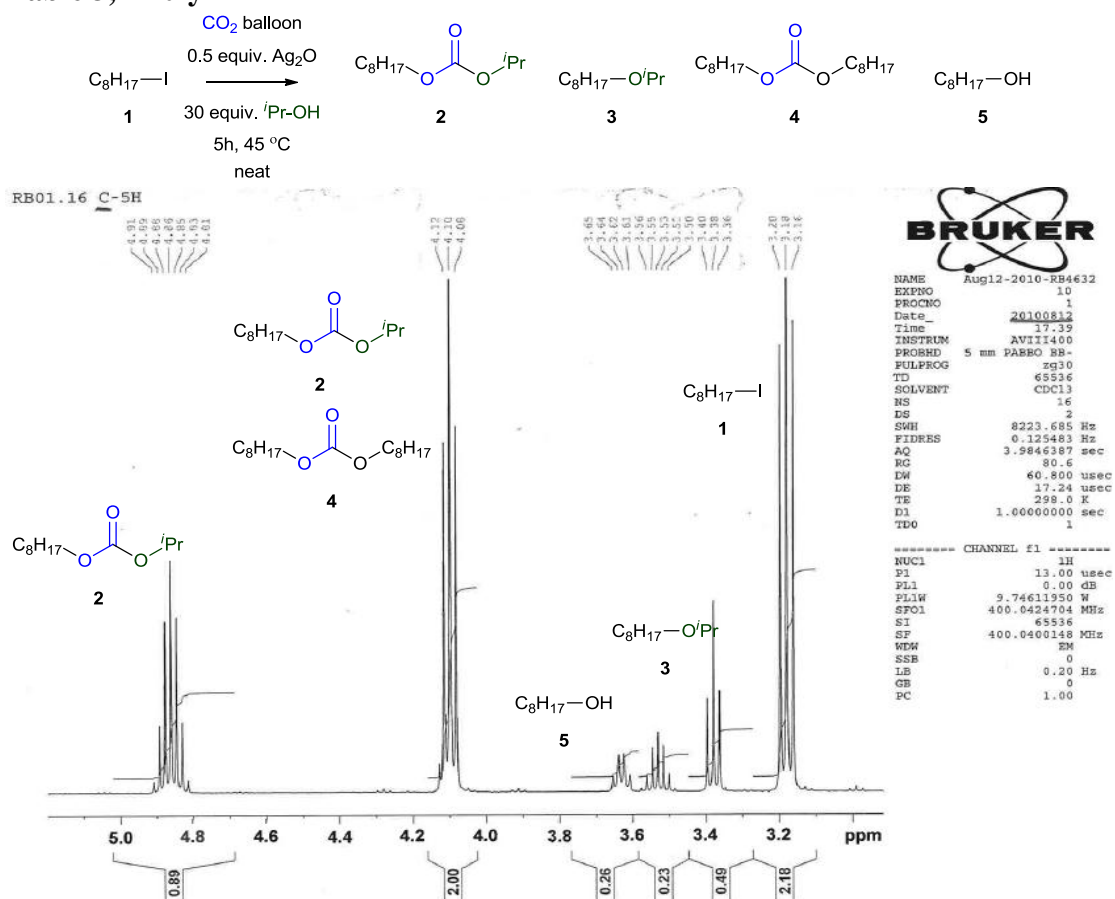




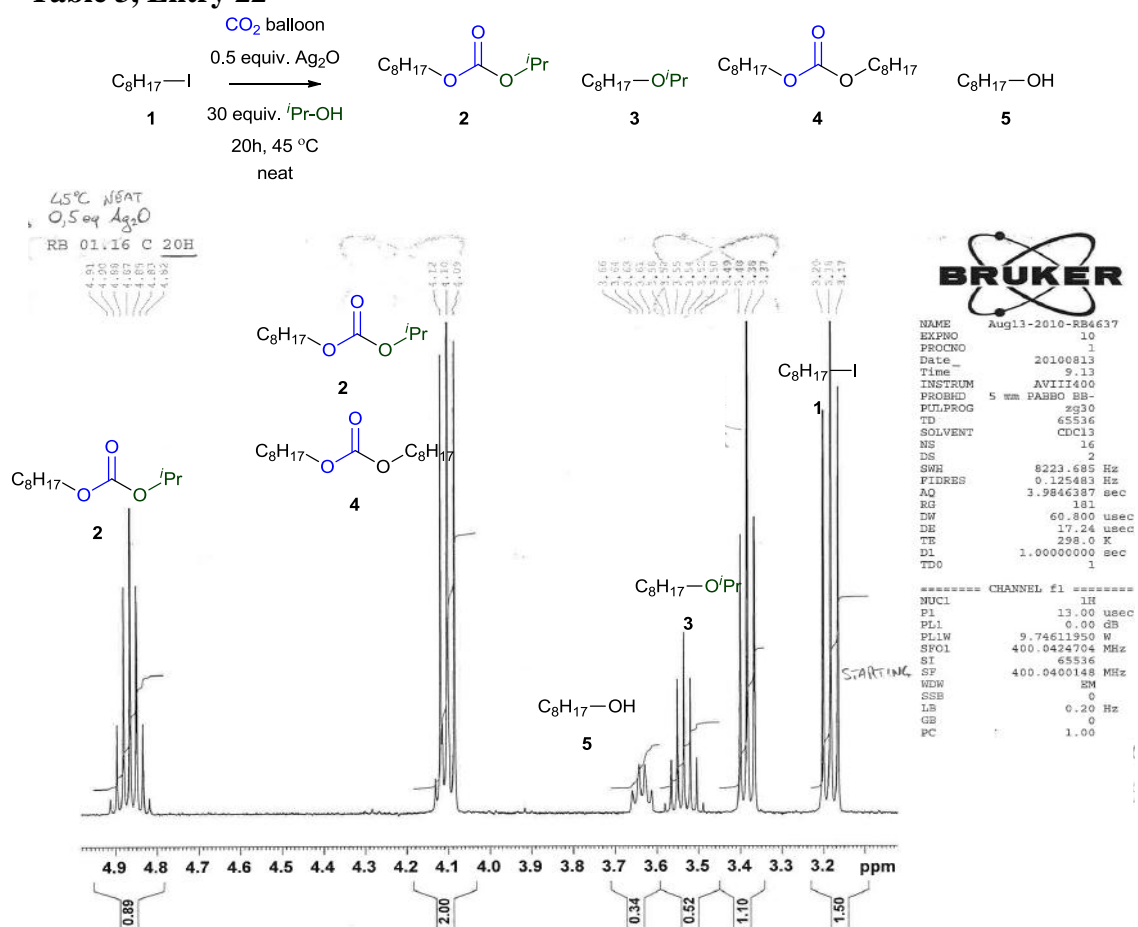
**Table 3, Entry 19**



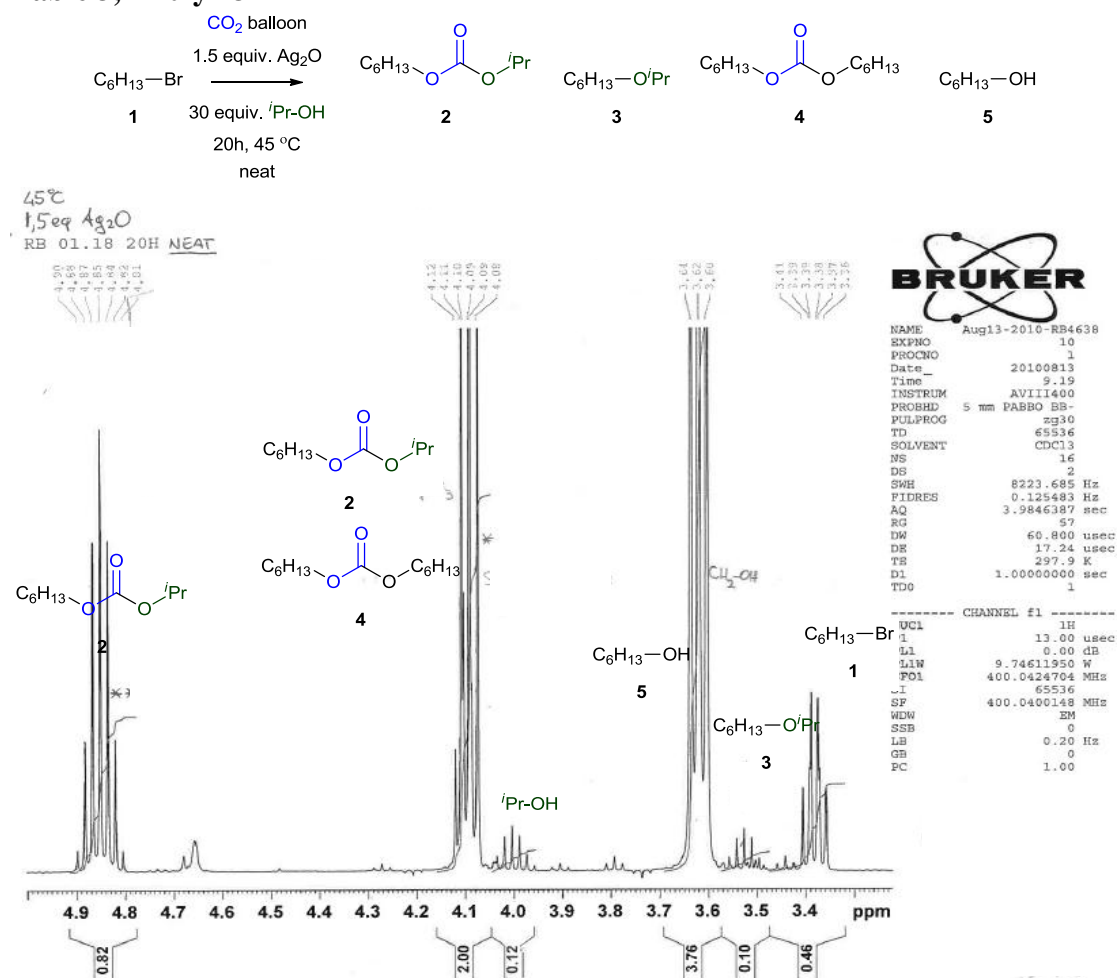
**Table 3, Entry 21**



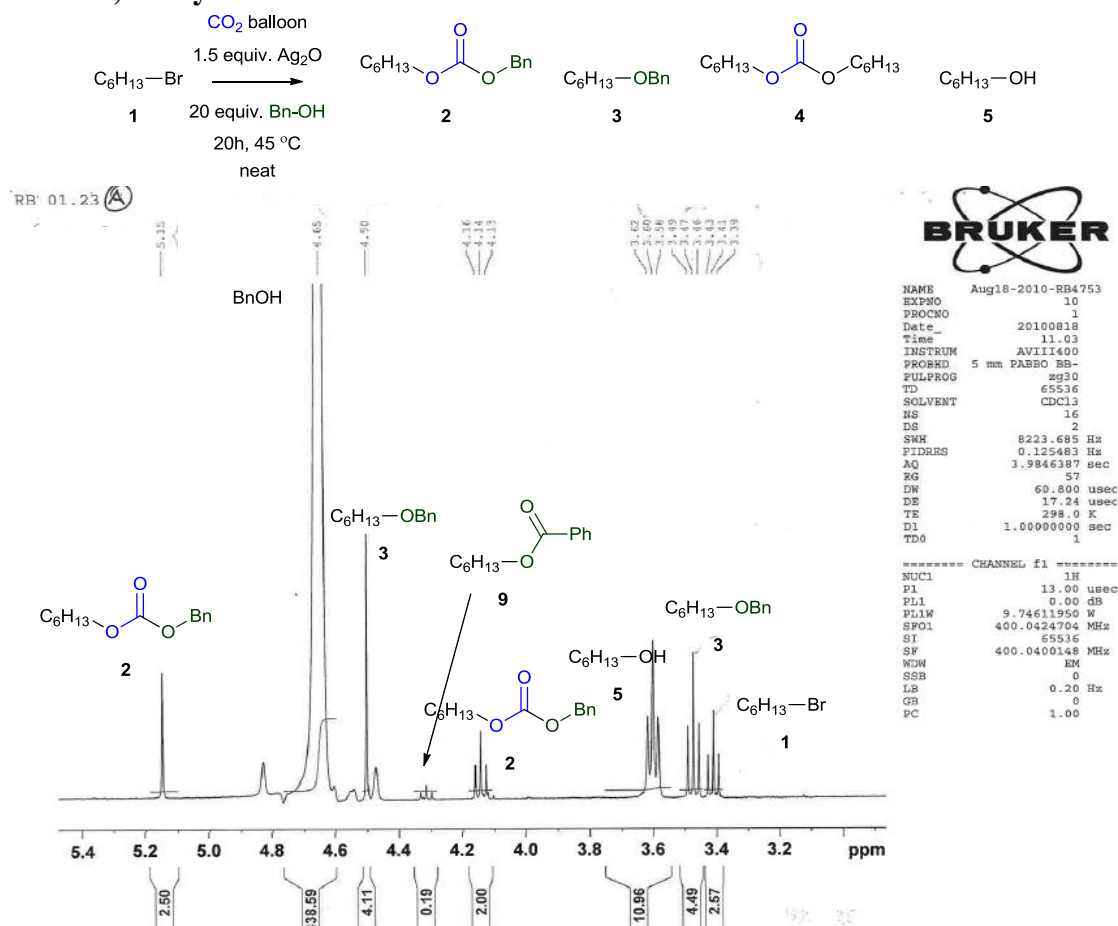
**Table 3, Entry 22**



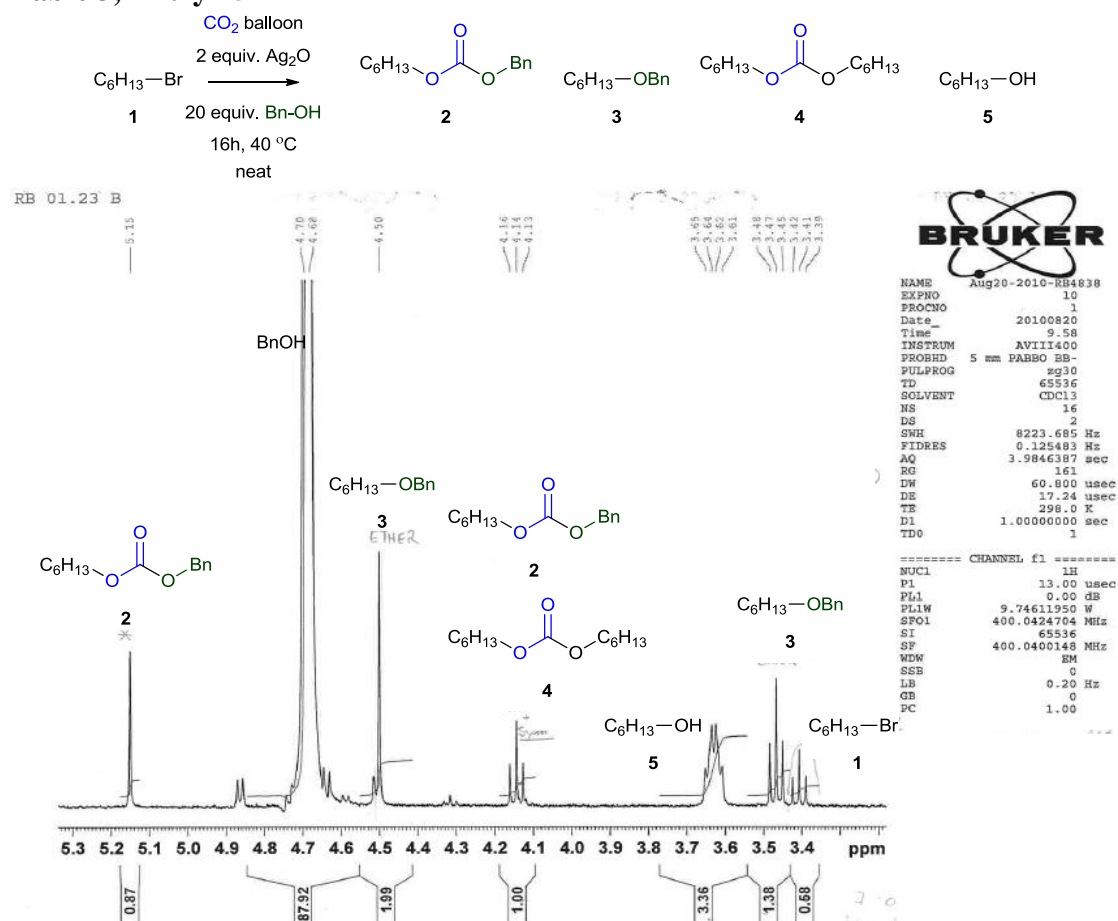
**Table 3, Entry 23**



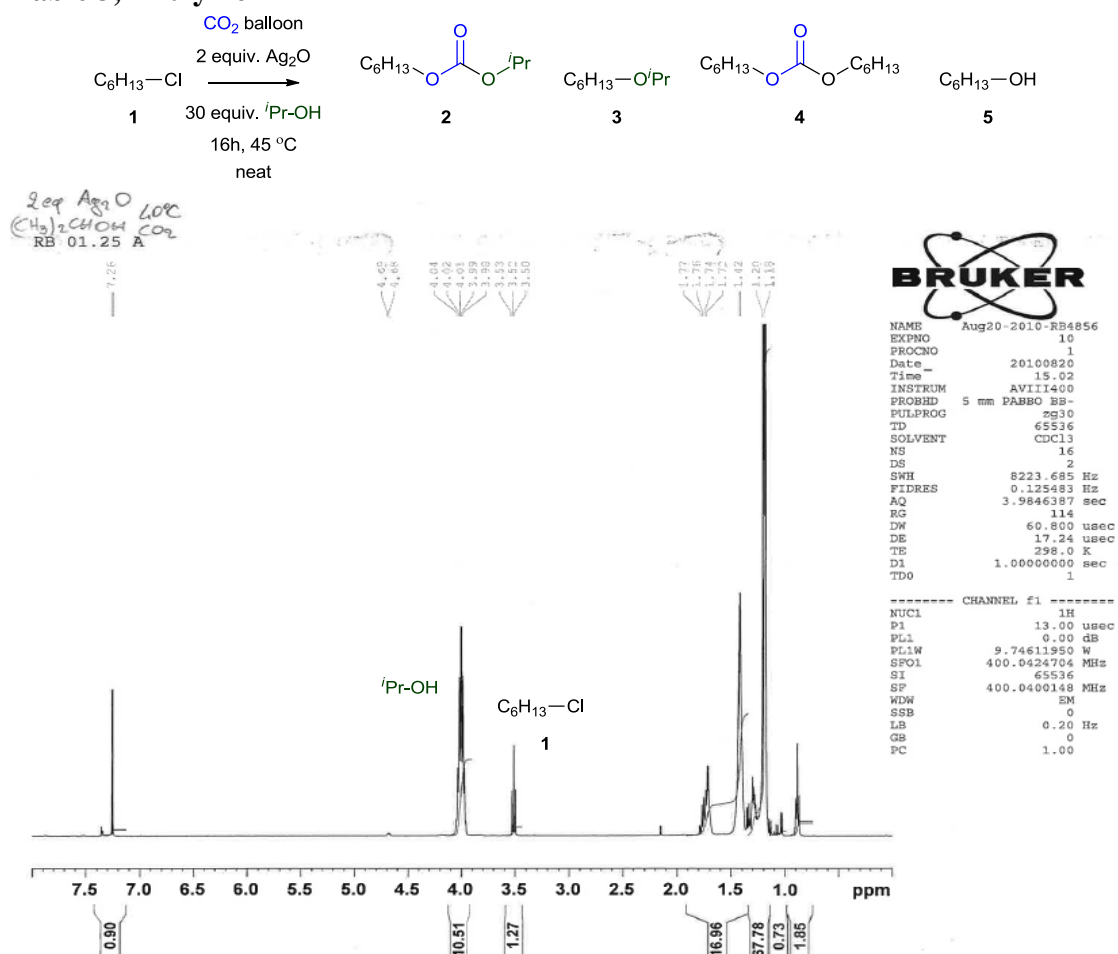
**Table 3, Entry 24**



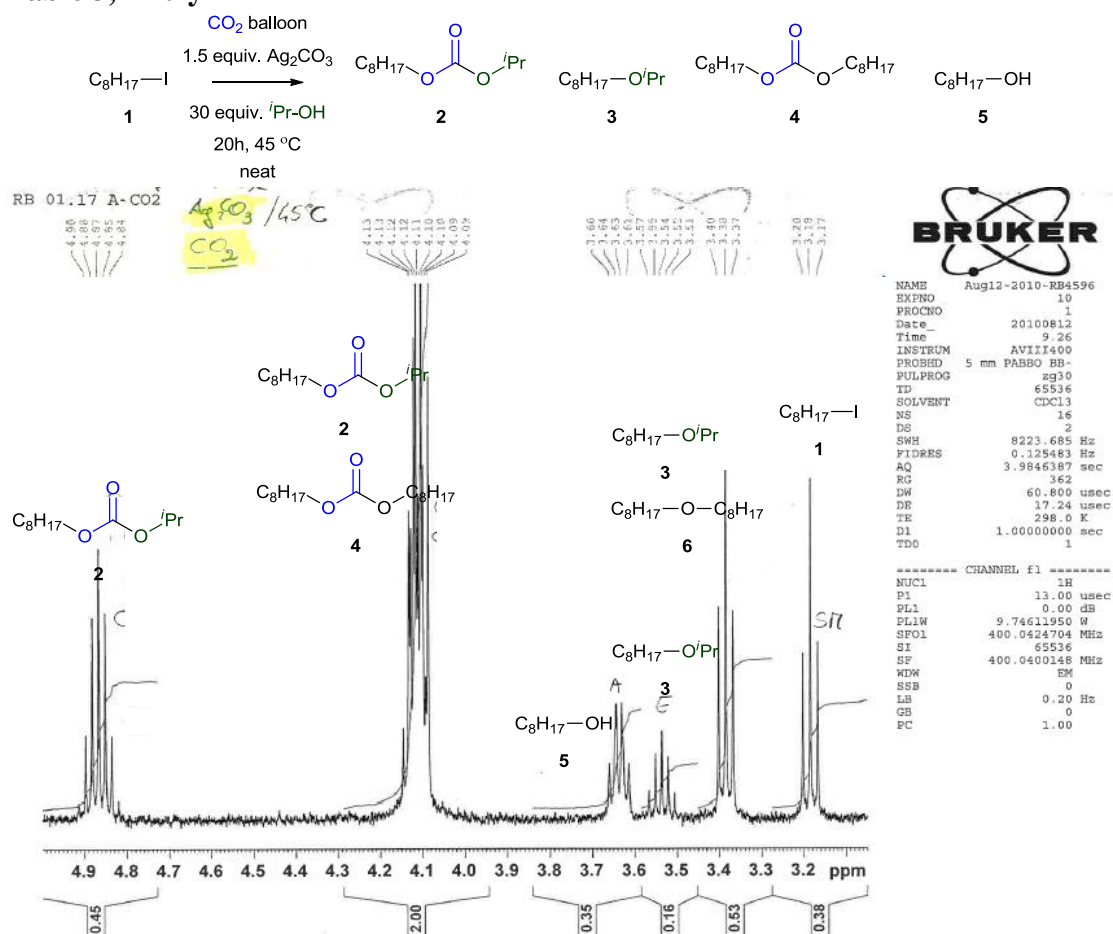
**Table 3, Entry 25**



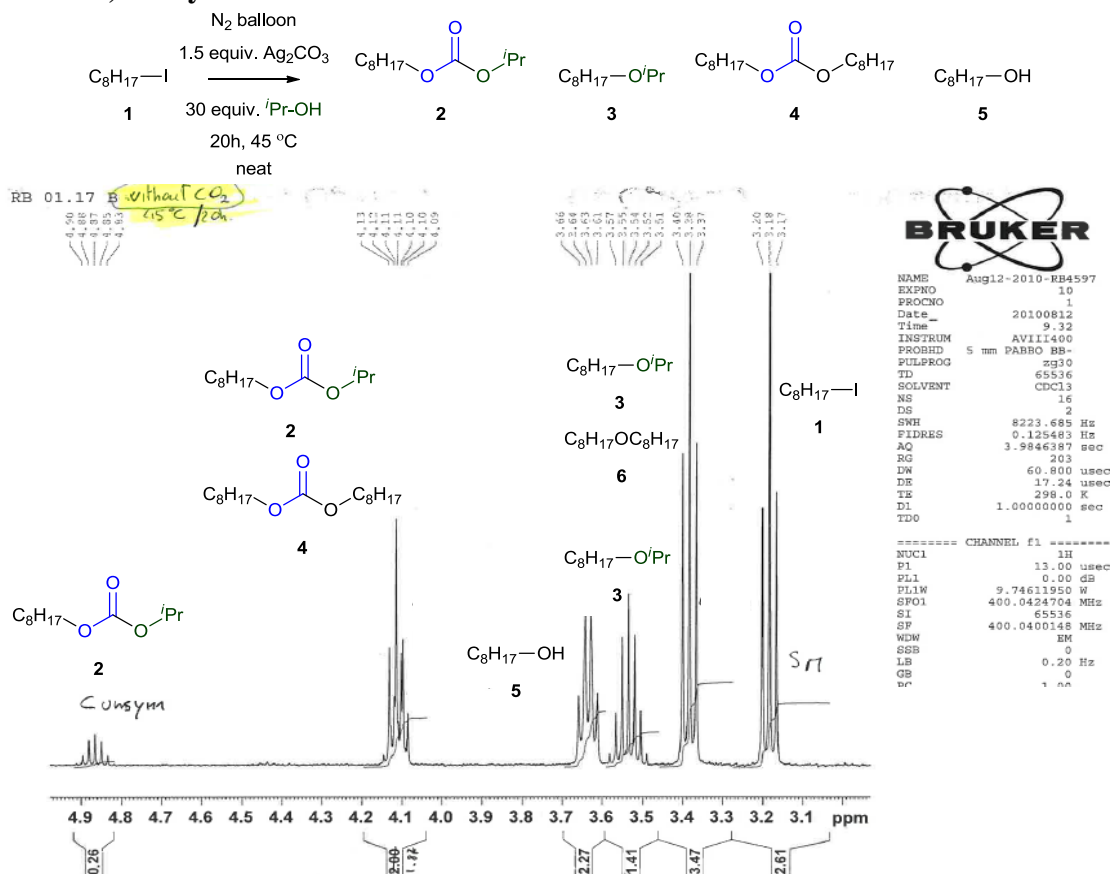
**Table 3, Entry 26**



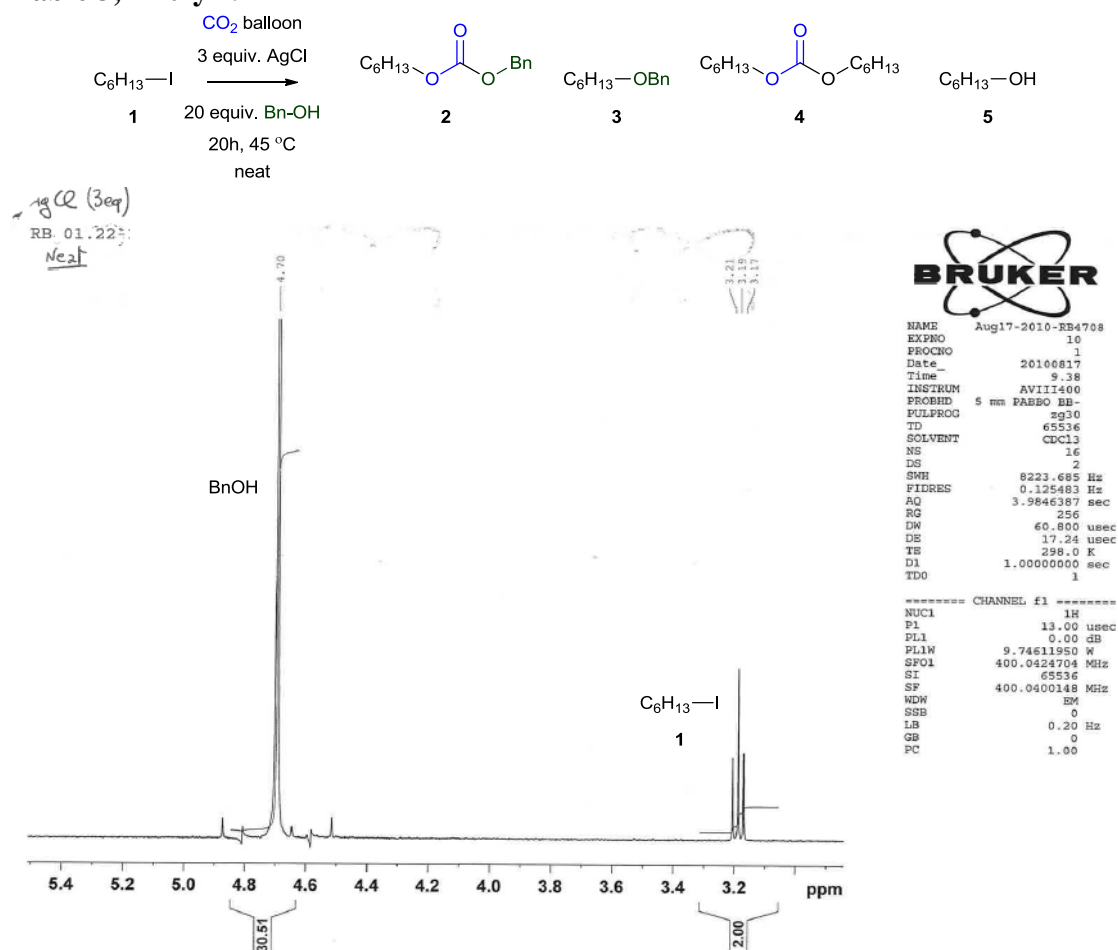
**Table 3, Entry 27**



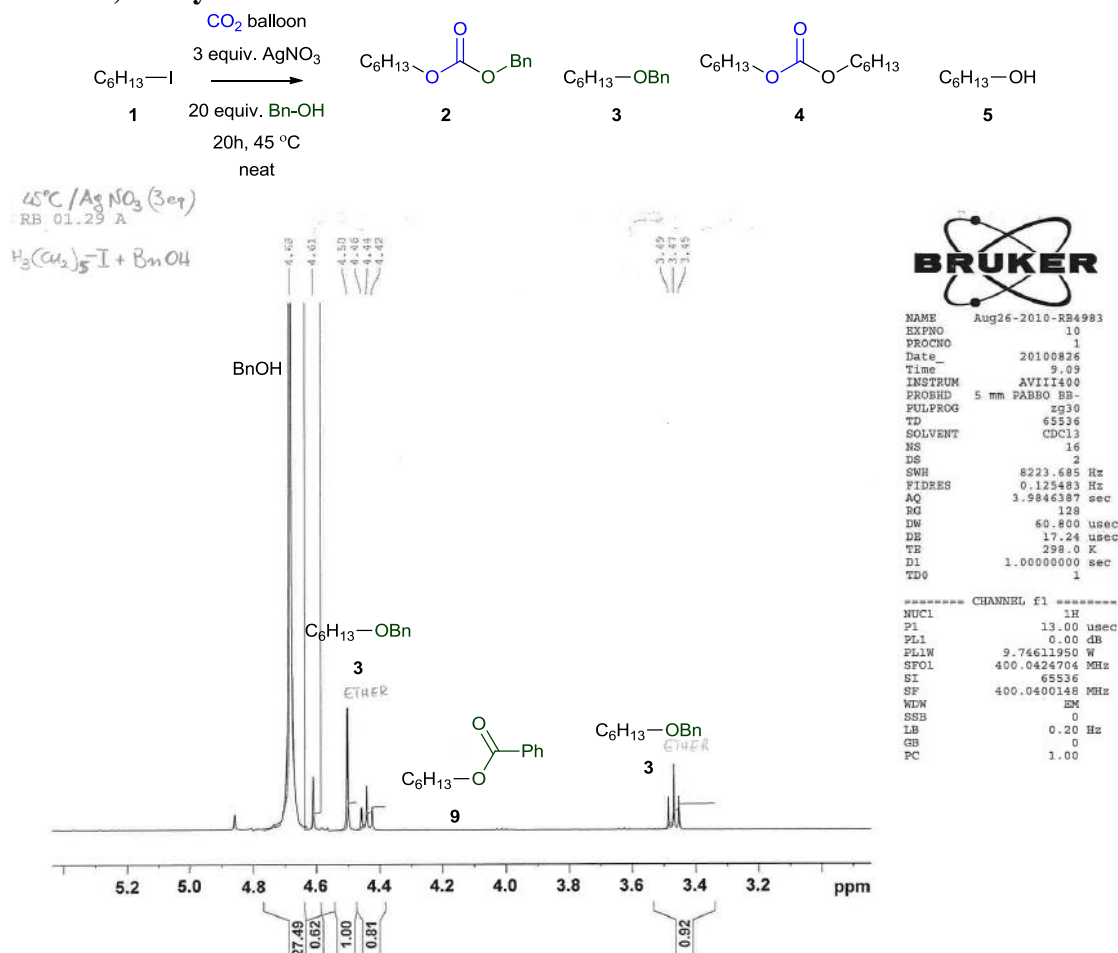
**Table 3, Entry 28**



### Table 3, Entry 29

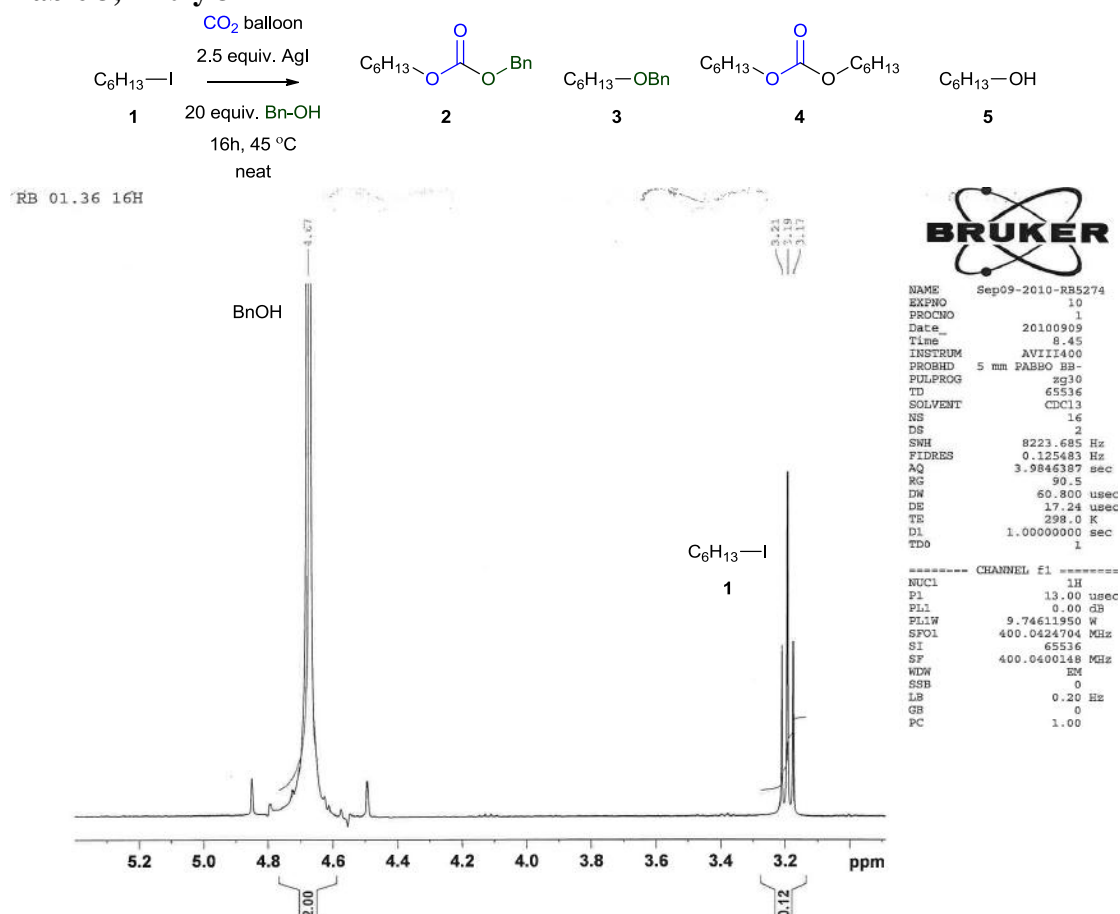


### Table 3, Entry 30

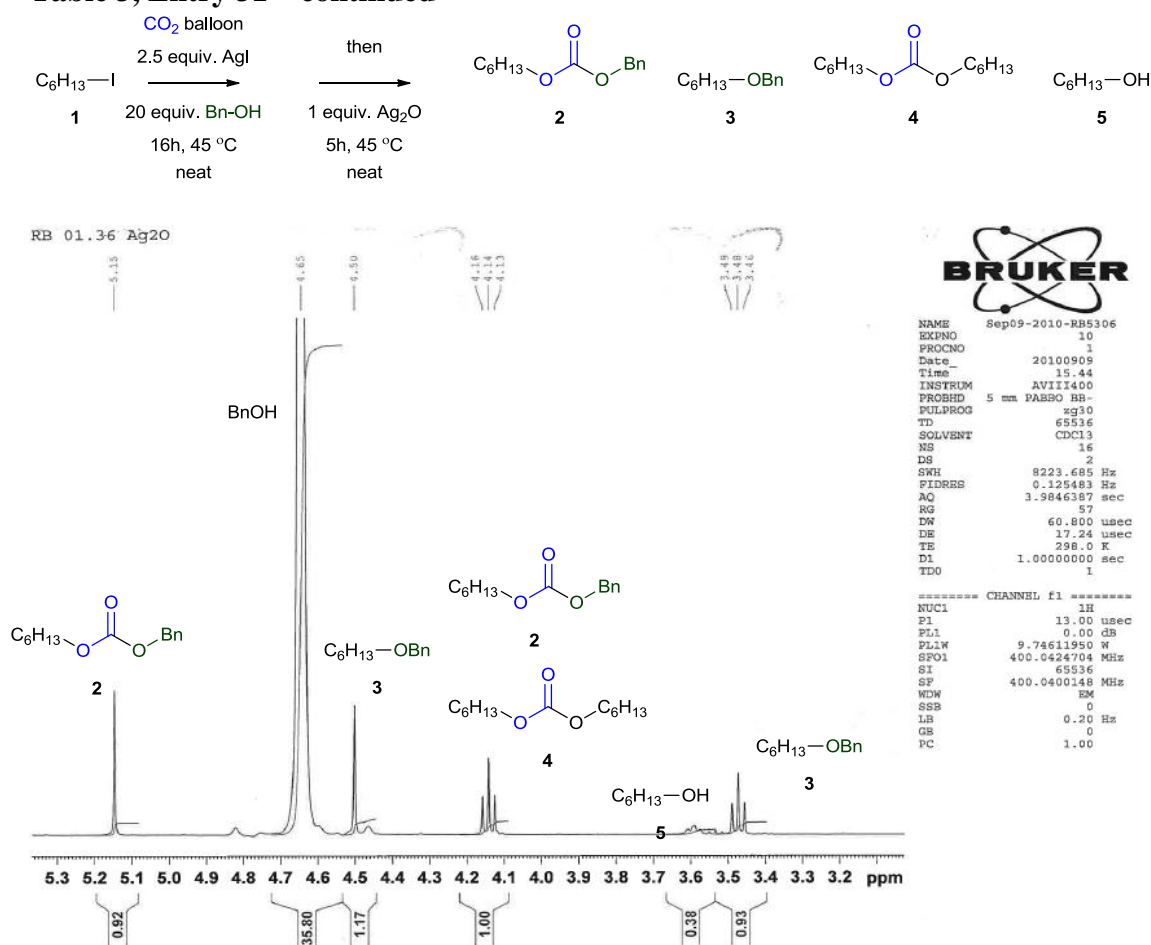




### Table 3, Entry 31



### Table 3, Entry 31 – continued



# Certificate of Analysis of $\text{NaH}^{13}\text{CO}_3$



Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.

50 Frontage Road, Andover, MA 01810-5413 USA  
800.322.1174 (N.AMERICA) 978.749.8000 (INTERNATIONAL)  
www.isotopce.com

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

**Product Name:** SODIUM BICARBONATE  
(Isotopic Label & Enrichment Specification) ( $^{13}\text{C}$ , 99%)

**Lot Number:** PR-18519C

**Catalog Number:** CLM-441-0

### Product Information

Chemical Purity Specification:  $\geq 98\%$   
Labeled CAS Number: 87081-58-1  
Unlabeled CAS Number: 144-55-8  
Molecular Weight: 85.00  
Chemical Formula:  $\text{NaH}^*\text{CO}_3$   
Storage: Store at room temperature away from light and moisture.  
Stability: Stable if stored under recommended conditions.

### Certification

Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. guarantees that this material meets or exceeds the specifications stated. Absolute identity as well as chemical and isotopic purities are assured by the use of unambiguous synthetic routes and multiple chemical analyses whenever possible.

Approved by: Jeffrey O'Neill

Jeffrey O'Neill, Quality Assurance

### Quality Control Tests and Results

Isotopic Enrichment Based on Starting Materials	99%
pH Analysis	8.1
Titration for Chemical Purity	99.3%
Weight Loss on Drying	<0.25%



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